## military illustrated £6.95 - November'24 (issue 158)

1:35 Hetzer Kubelblitz, 1:35 M3 Lee KO'd, Dragon 1:35 BTR-70, plus news, kit previews and much more...



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## Contents ISSUE No.158 NOVEMBER 2024 military illustrated MOCE Er



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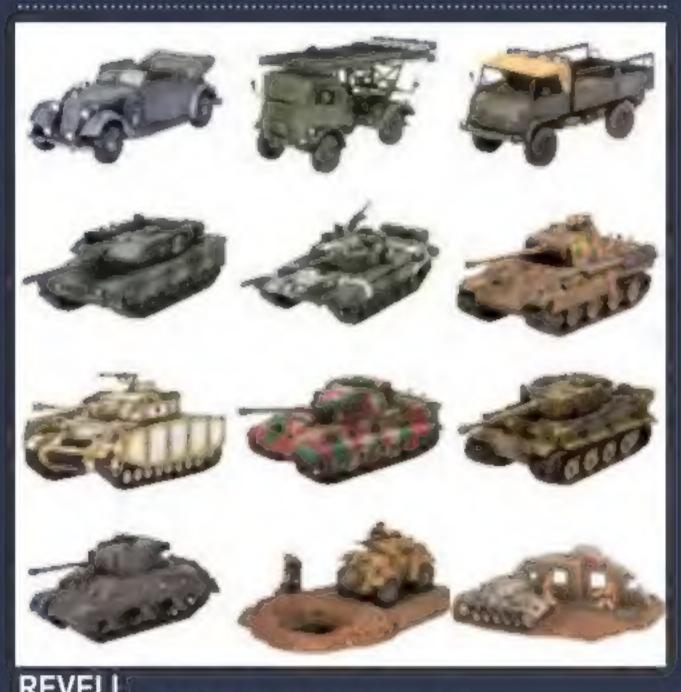
## THIS MONTH IN TAMIYA MODEL MAGAZINE...

In the November 2024 Issue (349) of Tamiya Model Magazine we have a detailed article on Tamiya 1:35 Military Miniatures Series German Infantry Set (late WWII). Order this issue here: www.doolittlemedia.com

## NEWSJUST IN...



- 1:35 M3 Stuart Light Tank Initial Production
- 1:35 STUG III Ausf.G Alkett Production October 1943
- 1:35 Sd.Kfz.234/2 Puma creativemodels.co.uk



### REVELL

- 1:35 Typ 320 (W142) Cabriolet 08
  1:35 WOT 8 BM-13-16 Katyusha-Cargo
  1:35 Model Set Unimog 404S
- 1:72 Leopard 2A7V
   1:72 T-72M1
- 1:72 Model Set Panther Ausf. G (Sd.Kfz. 171)
- 1:72 Model Set PzKpfw. IV Ausf.H
- 1:72 Model Set Tiger II Ausf.B
  1:72 Model Set PzKpfw VI Ausf.H Tiger
- 1:72 Model Set Sherman M4A1
- 1:76 Model Set Humber Mk.II 1.76 Model Set PzKpfw II Ausf.F

## revell.de

TAKOM 1:35 Jagdpanzer 38(t) Command Version With Winterketten bachmann.co.uk





## NEW FROM AK INTERACTIVE 1:35 T2 MODEL 1967 BUS

Perfect for modern-era dioramas, this (VW) bus is a highly detailed, injection-moulded model. www.ak-interactive.com and good retailers everywhere

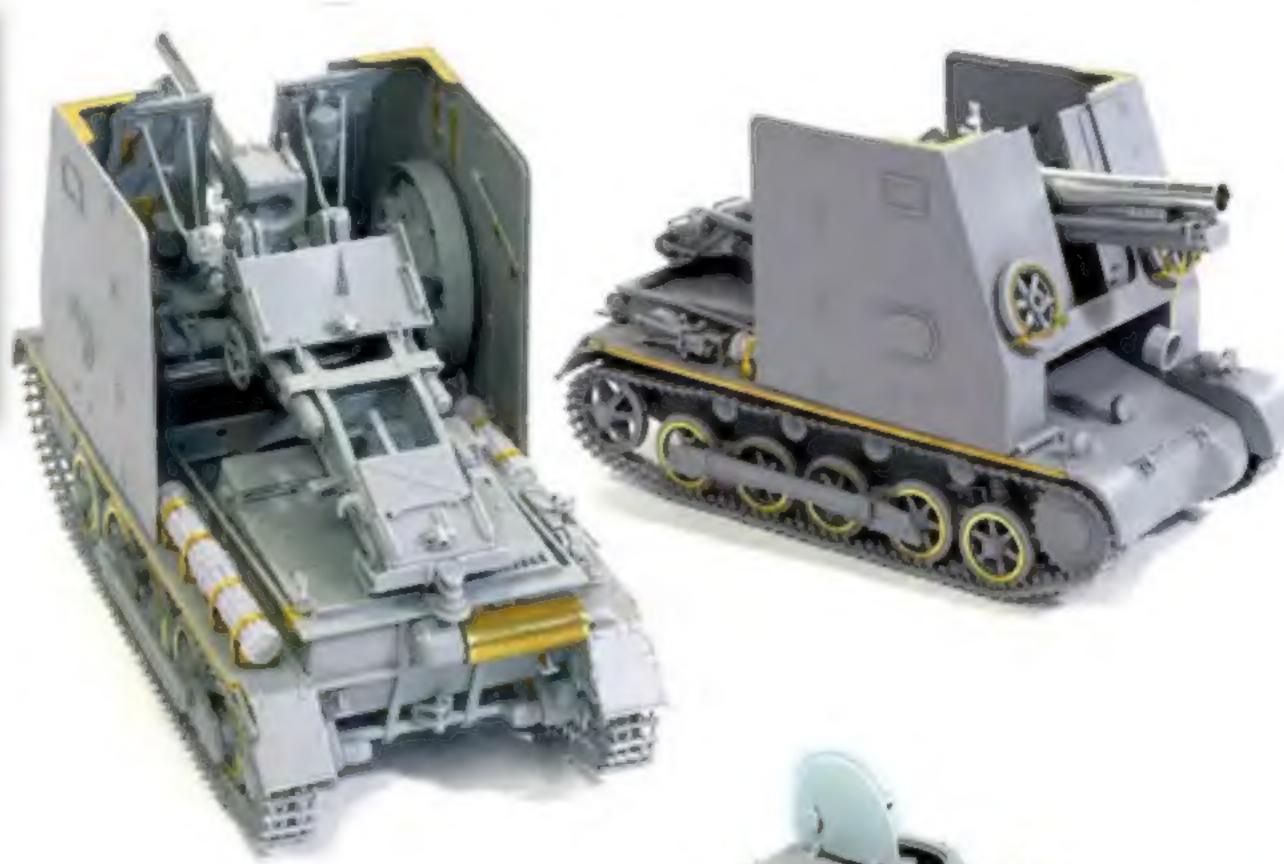




## COMING BACK SOON FROM DRAGON 1:35 15CM S.IG.33 (SF) AUF PZ.KPFW.I AUSF.B

With interest in the early-war Panzer I at a high right now, Dragon's timing in re-issuing this kit was spot on!

www.hobbyco.net and from good retailers everywhere





## COMING SOON FROM GECKO 1:35 US PACV HOVERCRAFT



The newest 1:35 release from Gecko Models takes the form of the mighty 'PACV' hovercraft and it has arrived at MIM more details next issue. www.tankmuseumshop.org



releases in 1:35 is this pair of light motorcycles, ideal for street-scene dioramas. www.tankmuseumshop.org



## NEW FROM ET MODEL 1:35 PZ.I TRACKS Although not designed specifically for it, these

superb 3D tracks will hopefully fit Tamiya's all new Pz.I Ausf B!



## **NEW FROM HYM MODELS** 1:35 3D PRINT WHEELS DKW NZ350 FOR TAMIYA

An easy and effective way to sharpen up Tamiya's excellent DKW 350 WWII German motorcycle.

www.hymmodels.com

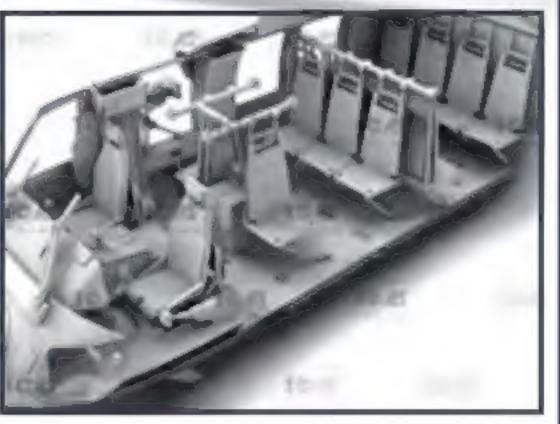




### NEW FROM ICM 1:48 MH-60L BLACK HAWK US SPECIAL FORCES HELICOPTER

An all-new kit in 1:48 of this sinister Black Hawk version is sneaking in from ICM - sunglasses at the ready! www.icm.com.ua.com www.hannants.co.uk

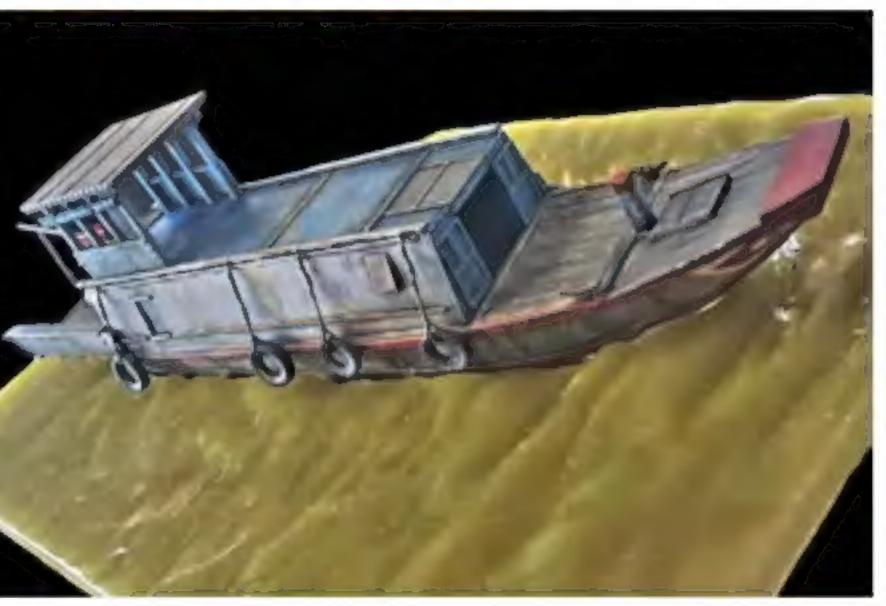






## NEW FROM PARACEL MODELS 1:35 MEKONG DELTA CIVILIAN LONG BOAT

Perfect for Vietnam War riverine dioramas, this new kit is a 3D-print design with lots of detail, plus figures. www.paracelminiatures.com







## NEW FROM TRUMPETER 1:35 UH-1B HUEY

An all-new Huey – in any scale, but 1:35 is ideal – was much needed, and Trumpeter have heeded the call with this release. More details soon.

www.bachmann.co.uk and good retailers everywhere











## NEW FROM REAL MODEL 2020 1:35 M26A1 DRAGON WAGON CONVERSION

Designed to convert Tamiya's sublime M26 Dragon Wagon tractor to the un-armoured, soft-cab version, this is an all-new set in 3D-print that includes wheels and tyres. An engine set can be bought separately if desired. www.realmodel.cz

## COMING SOON FROM PIMP MY MINIATURES 1:35 AB41-43 WHEEL SET

Italeri's AB-41-43 Italian armoured car gets a set of superb new wheels, courtesy of this new manufacturer.

Search Facebook for 'Pimp My Miniatures'





## NEW FROM ICM 1:48 HUMVEE CARGO CARRIER

ICM's second Humvee is the M1097A2 Cargo carrier. www.icm.com.ua.com www.hannants.co.uk



## NEW FROM MINIART 1:35 SD.KFZ.234/3 'STUMMEL'

Next in line on the Sd.Kfz.234 chassis is the /3 'Stummel' howitzer-fitted machine. www.creativemodels.co.uk



## COMING SOON FROM T-REX 1:35 PZ.I TRACKS FOR HOBBYBOSS AND DRAGON

As with the ET Models tracks shown elsewhere here, we hope this set also fits Tamiya's new Pz.I Ausf. B kit! www.t-rex-studio.com



# Model Craft AM SILITARY ILLUSTRATED MODE SINGLE COLOR SILITARY ILLUSTRATED MODE SILITARY ILLUSTRATED SILITARY ILLUSTRATED MODE SILITARY ILLUSTRATED MODE SILITARY ILLUSTRATED MODE SILITARY ILLUSTRATED SILITARY

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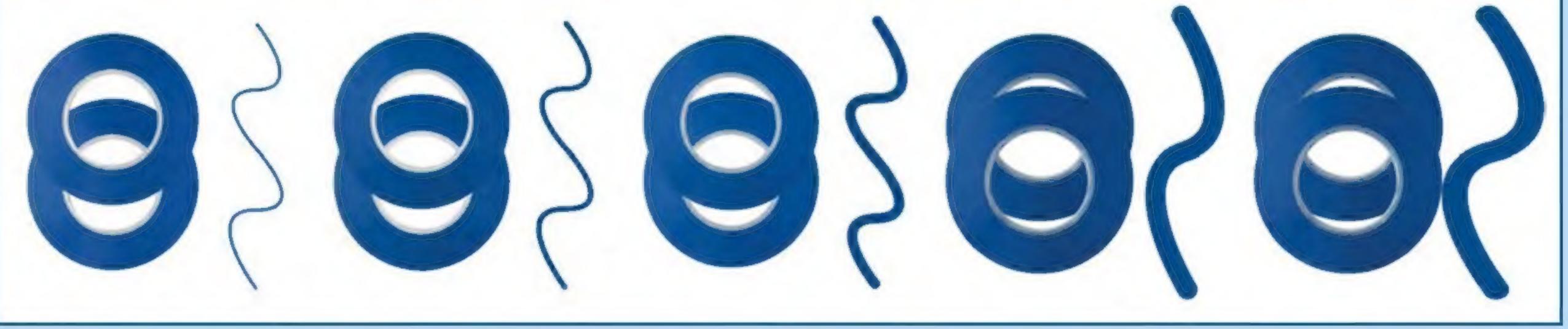
We have teamed up with our friends at Model Craft so we can offer you a special gift for subscribing with us for 24 issues.

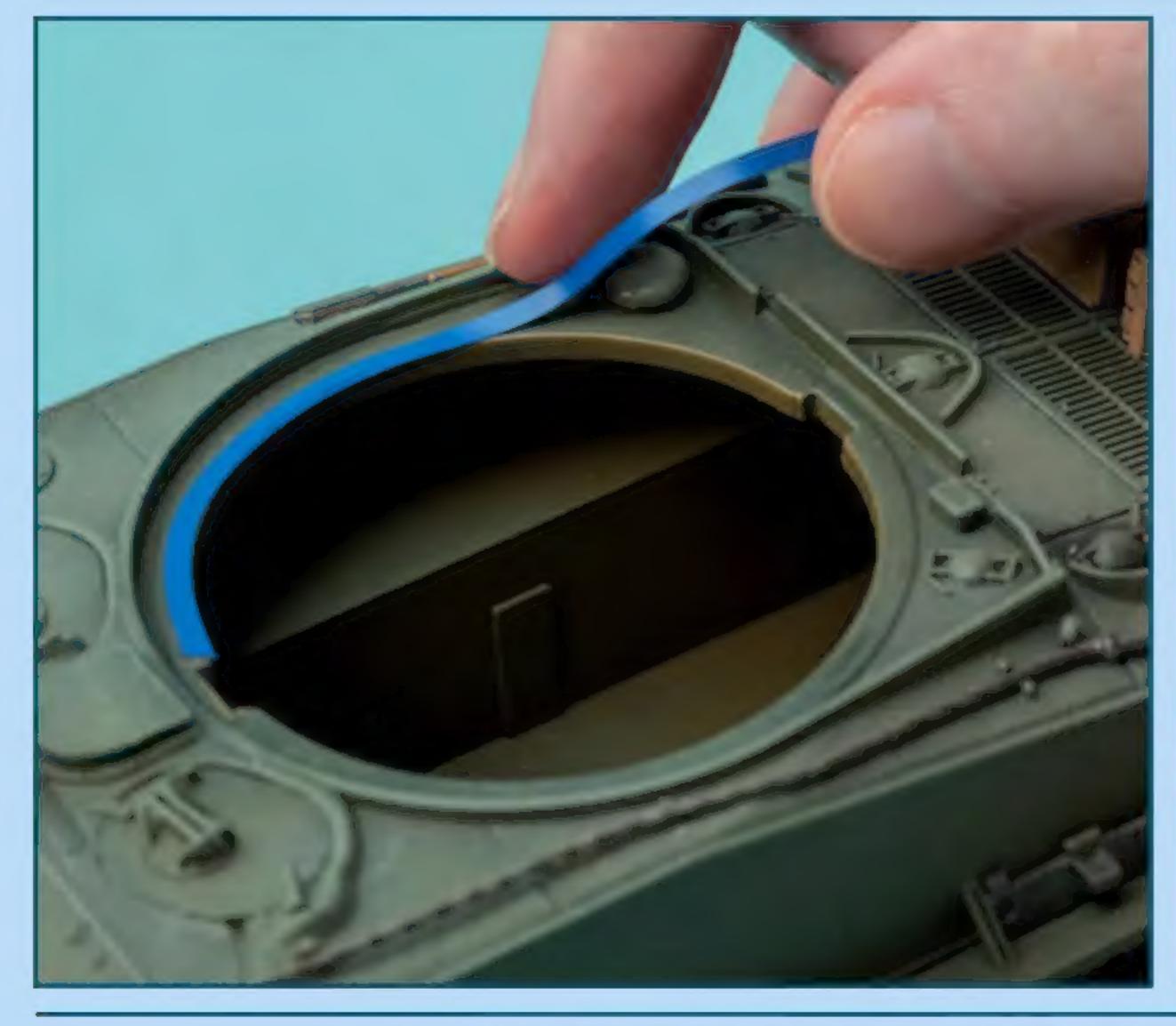
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## PANZERKAMPFWAGEN I AUSF. B SD.KFZ.101

Tamiya's newest 1:35 tank depicts the early-war Panzer I Ausf. B, completing the 1:35 line-up of German WW2 tanks in Tamiya's catalogue

Ithough Germany was forbidden to develop tanks after its defeat in World War I, it developed the Panzerkampfwagen I under the title of 'agricultural tractor' to divert suspicion of rearmament and the Pz.Kpfw.I became a mass-produced tank. The Ausf. B's engine was upgraded to 100hp, almost double the 57hp of the Ausf. A. It also had a 40cm longer hull and was equipped with a pair of 7.92mm MG13 machine guns. While the Pz.Kpfw.l was developed for training, it first saw combat action in Spain during the Spanish Civil War and was used extensively in various situations such as the invasion of Poland and the Eastern Front.

Tamiya's launch of this 100% new kit has delighted fans of World War Two armour, and TMMI too! The Panzerkampfwagen I is a tiny thing and in 1:35 measures just 123mm – just under five inches – in length. Despite these diminutive dimensions, Tamiya's new kit certainly doesn't lack detail, with kit parts being spread across four sprues of panzergrey polystyrene, plus one in clear and one photo-etched nickel-steel fret. The tracks are miniscule but haven't been skimped on and come in the form of links and lengths, the upper runs of which incorporate just the

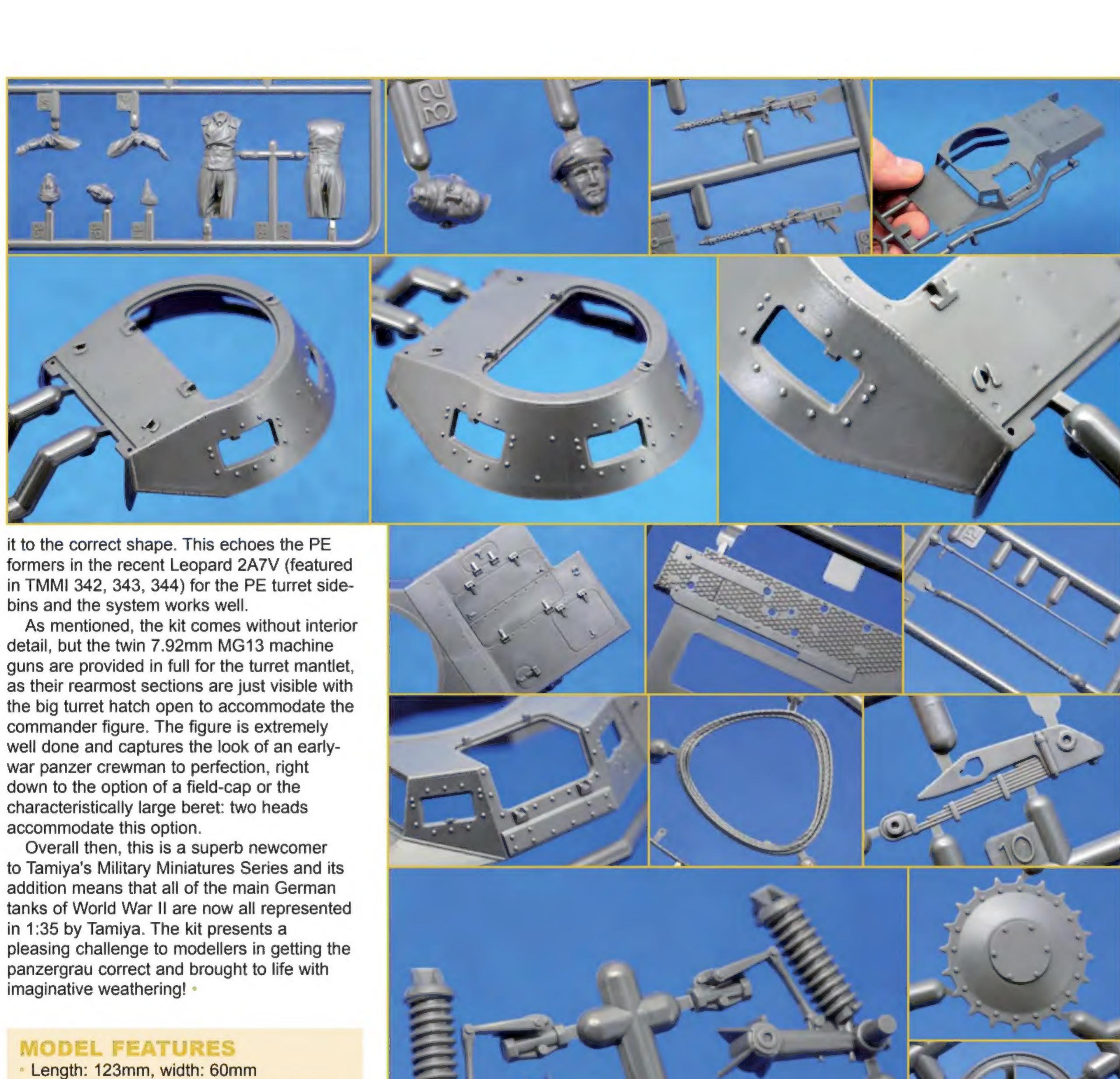
correct degree of 'sag' between roadwheels.

In order to guarantee the best possible rendition of the latter, the inner,six-spoked wheels are moulded individually and sandwiched between tyre halves during assembly. This is a really nice design idea and allows the wheels to gain an additional level of three-dimensionality that one-piece parts could not attain.

Onto the upper hull and here, the two-part crew access door is moulded in separate pieces and could be fitted in the open position. There's no interior detail but this option does mean an aftermarket crew figure could be placed in aperture without the need to cut into the hull.

Aside from the main visual difference between Panzers I 'A' and 'B' of an extra roadwheel for the latter, the other notable variation is the position of the exhaust systems. On the 'A' they are mounted on the rear of the track-guards but on the 'B' the single exhaust box will be found on the hull's rear panel. To accurately represent its heat-shroud, Tamiya provide a neat photo-etched part, plus a two-part press/

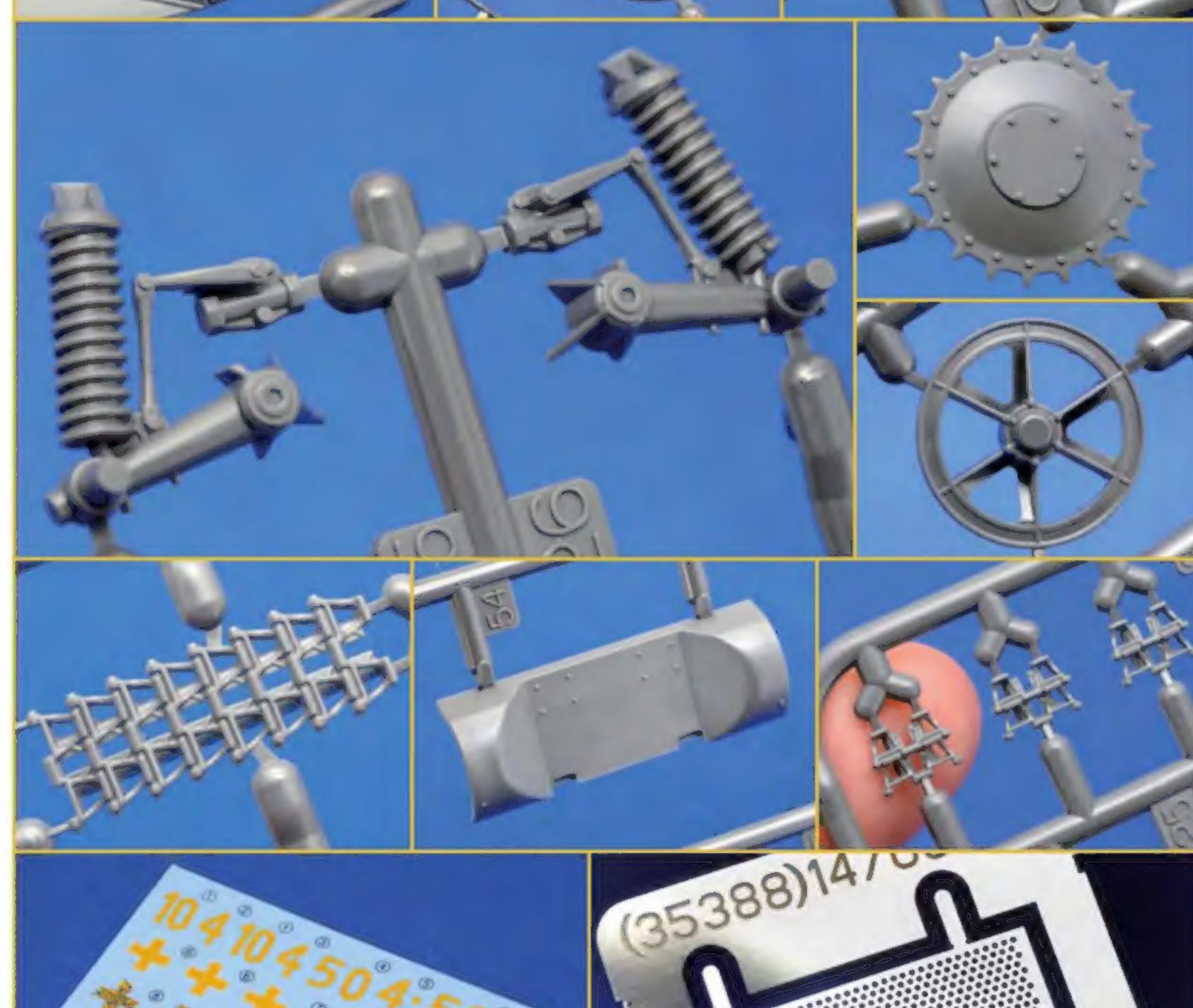
former to bend



- The compact and design of the German Panzerkampfwagen I Ausf.B is accurately reproduced thanks to extensive research into the real tank
- The assembly-type tracks have one-piece straight sections and a realistic sag on the upper runs
- The left and right track-guards are recreated in one piece with anti-slip patterns
- The upper hull and turret have realistically rendered welding seams
- A photo-etched part authentically depicts the exhaust shroud for an in-scale effect
- The kit includes commander torso figure with options for a beret or side cap
- Comes with a choice of three marking options to recreate the versions in service during attacks on France, Russia and Poland.

## AVAILABILITY:

Tamiya models, accessories, paints and materials are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by The Hobby Company Limited; www.hobbyco.net





i, I am Leo, a scale model lover from Taiwan. Before I start today's main subject, I have to mention the Flakpanzer IV 'Kugelblitz' first.

Towards the end of World War II, the German army's need for anti-aircraft capabilities became increasingly urgent. Therefore, a multitude of improvised and specially designed self-propelled anti-aircraft guns were built,

many on the Panzer IV chassis, starting with the Flakpanzer IV Möbelwagen (a stop-gap design) and progressing through the Wirbelwind and Ostwind models. However, these designs were tall, open-topped, and had suboptimal armour, which did not feel safe.

In response to this situation, the Germans developed a self-propelled anti-aircraft gun called the Kugelblitz (German for "Ball

Lightning"). It eliminated the flaws of the open-topped designs and became the final development of the Flakpanzer IV.

The Kugelblitz used the 30mm MK 103/Pz cannons in a Zwillingsflak ("twin flak") 103/38 arrangement. The MK 103 had also been fitted in single mounts to such planes as the Henschel Hs129 in a ventral gun pod and the twin-engined Dornier Do 335. Each 30mm gun



could fire 450 rounds a minute.

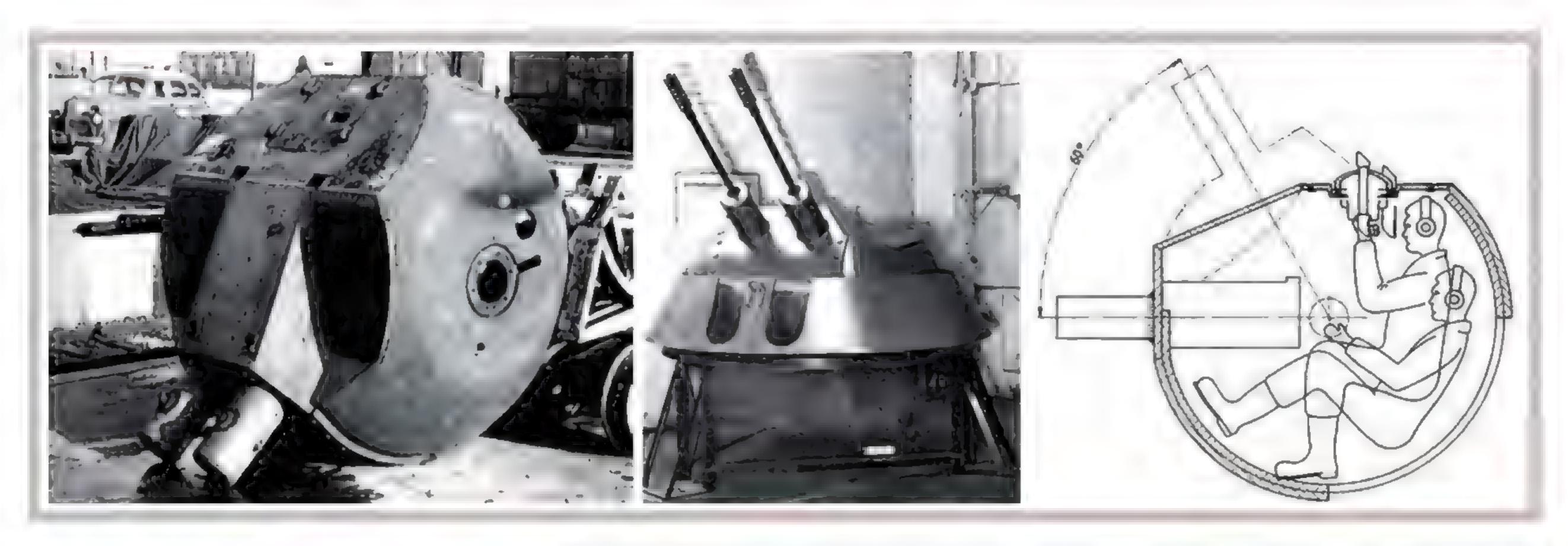
The Kugelblitz combined the chassis and basic superstructure of the Panzer IV tank with a newly designed oscillating turret. This turret was fully enclosed, with overhead protection and 360° traverse. Mass production was planned but never happened due to the disruption by Allied bombing efforts. Only five prototypes were built.

Although the Flakpanzer IV 'Kugelblitz' did not succeed in becoming the German army's primary anti-aircraft weapon, its unique design and appearance have always fascinated me. In the past, only Dragon released a 1/35 scale kit, and after completing that, I noticed an even more interesting subject - the Flakpanzer 38(t) "Kugelblitz." Reportedly, as production of the Panzer IV was about to cease, further work was underway to adapt the design to the Jagdpanzer 38(t) Hetzer chassis, which was itself based on the Panzer 38(t). However, no prototypes using Hetzer hulls were ever completed.

Though no prototype of this vehicle was ever made, the concept of combining the

Kugelblitz with the 38(t) chassis is incredibly appealing, especially for a modeller. I personally like to call it "Ball Lightning Hetzer".

Since it was never mass-produced, there is no historical reference, and I originally thought it would be an impossible subject to tackle. However, a few years ago, 3D-printed kits of it started appearing on the market, and to my surprise, model manufacturer Takom followed suit by releasing a 1:35 plastic kit of this "Ball Lightning Hetzer", making it possible to bring this project to life.





### **≺ KUGELBLITZ IN KIT-FORM**

Since the "Ball Lightning Hetzer" was never actually built, and only some simple sketches exist, it offers a lot of creative freedom. Takom's model design naturally involves a lot of imagination. Some people say that if this vehicle had been mass-produced, it might have used the longer 38(d) chassis rather than the 38(t). However, I don't mind. After all, it's all speculation, and the short body of the 38(t) makes the "Ball Lightning Hetzer" look even 'cuter'.

To accommodate the Kugelblitz's large turret ring, Takom redesigned the upper hull, widening the middle section. Additionally, because the turret ring is so large, there is no space to place a hatch on the top of the hull, so the hatch was moved to the front, making it resemble the driver's hatch on a T-34. This is a rather interesting feature.

In terms of assembly, there were no significant issues. Since Takom has focused on their Hetzer product line in recent years and released a series of new Hetzer models, the fit and build quality are up to standard. One praiseworthy aspect is that the tracks are semi-linked, making them easier to assemble while still retaining detailed features and a realistic sagging effect. For the idler wheels, Takom offers two options, allowing you to choose between an early or late variant. The late variant is generally considered more reasonable for this design.

As for the paint scheme, since the Kugelblitz only reached the prototype stage at most, modellers have two main approaches. One is the so-called "factory finish", simulating how the vehicle would have looked just after receiving its anti-corrosion primer, and because it was the end of the war with scarce resources, it might have been rushed into combat in this state. The other approach is a more creative, late-war multi-colour camouflage. Both are quite interesting.





"SINCE THE "BALL LIGHTNING HETZER"
WAS NEVER ACTUALLY BUILT, AND ONLY
SOME SIMPLE SKETCHES EXIST, IT OFFERS
A LOT OF CREATIVE FREEDOM..."

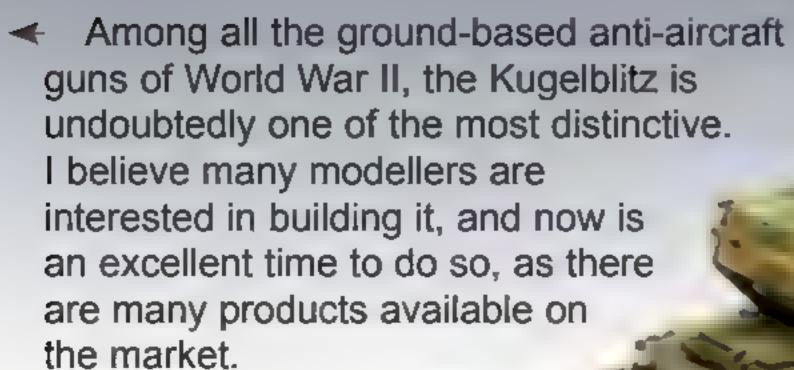
## PAINTING TIME!

Since I already attempted a factory finish on my Flakpanzer IV Kugelblitz this time I opted for the multi-colour camouflage, using the box art as my reference. Therefore, my build was almost 'out of the box' this time, only added welding patterns to the outside of the turret, no other significant modifications. Even the paint comes from the box art.

For the base coat, I used Gunze lacquer paint 39 Sandy Yellow. The green was also from its C15 Black Green, and I lightened them considerably with 62 Flat White. To achieve the sharp-edged camouflage pattern, I first hand-painted the outlines and then filled them in with an airbrush. The final result turned out great, but I don't recommend this method, as the smell of Mr Hobby lacquer paints is overwhelming. Several times during the hand-painting process, I felt like I was being poisoned! (use ventilation! Ed). I believe similar results could be achieved with waterbased paints. After finishing the base coat, I used weathering products from multiple brands to create rust, dirt, and weathering effects, completing the build.

Building this 'Ball Lightning Hetzer' brought me a lot of joy. Although from a historical perspective, this vehicle is somewhat impractical; the Kugelblitz's large turret would leave very little space for the crew or ammunition storage. But even so, such a development plan really existed, and it is fascinating. Through this model, we can imagine the German army's desperation for anti-aircraft firepower and what the "Ball Lightning Hetzer" might have looked like in that context.





Besides Dragon's early 1:35 Panzer IV Kugelblitz the Chinese brand Border Model has also released a new version in recent years, including both early and late variants. In addition to the 38(t) Kugelblitz, Takom has released a special version based on the Panther V chassis, officially named the Flakpanzer V Kugelblitz. While some argue that using the Panther chassis for this design is a waste, its unique appearance would undoubtedly make it a standout piece. Additionally, there are aftermarket parts like metal gun barrels and resin muzzle brakes for the Kugelblitz, allowing you to create an even more refined model of the Flakpanzer. Give it a try! .

## MODELSPEC

TAKOM 1:35 FLAKPANZER 38(t) KUGELBLITZ KIT NO.2179

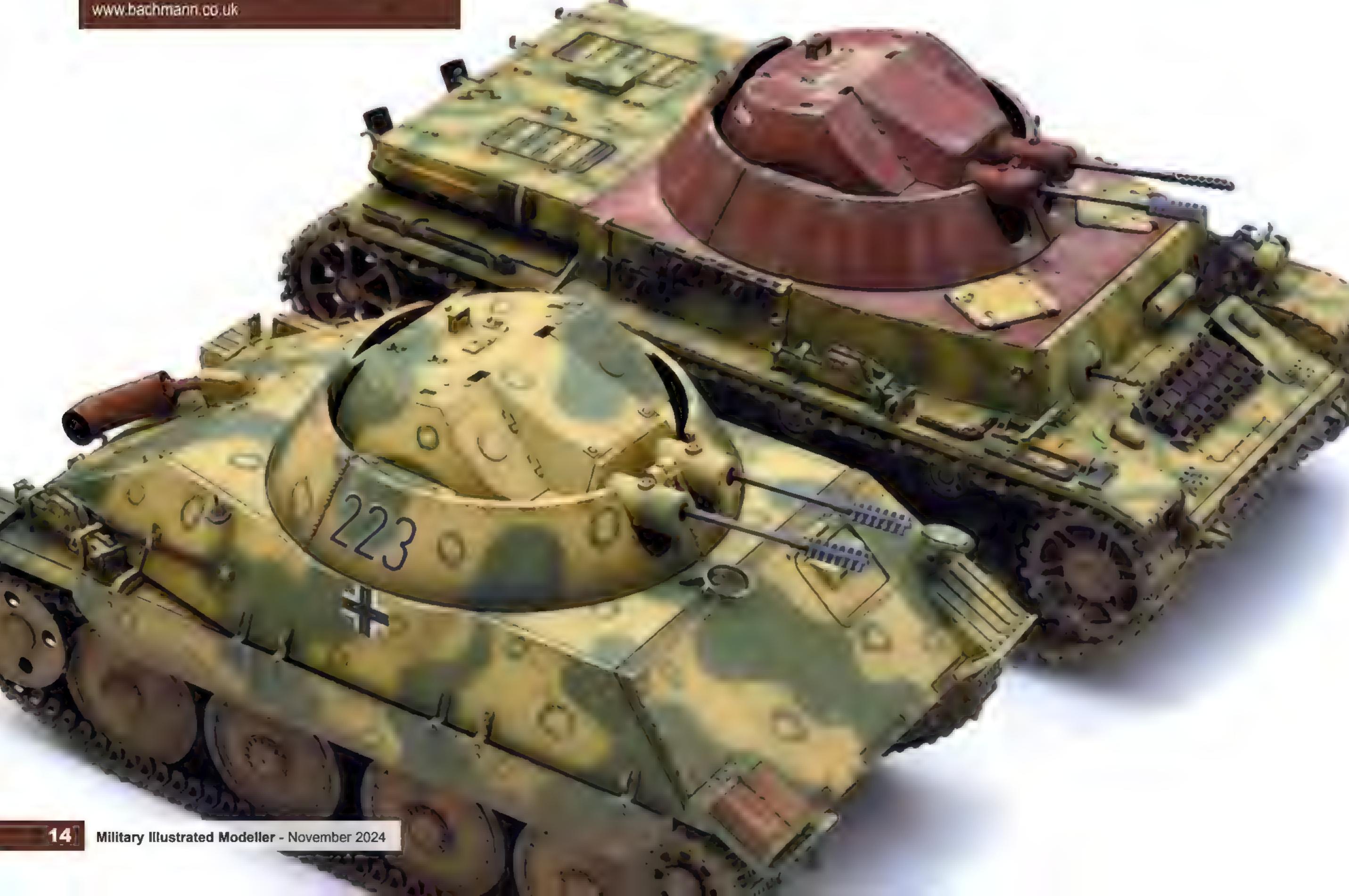
**Materials** 

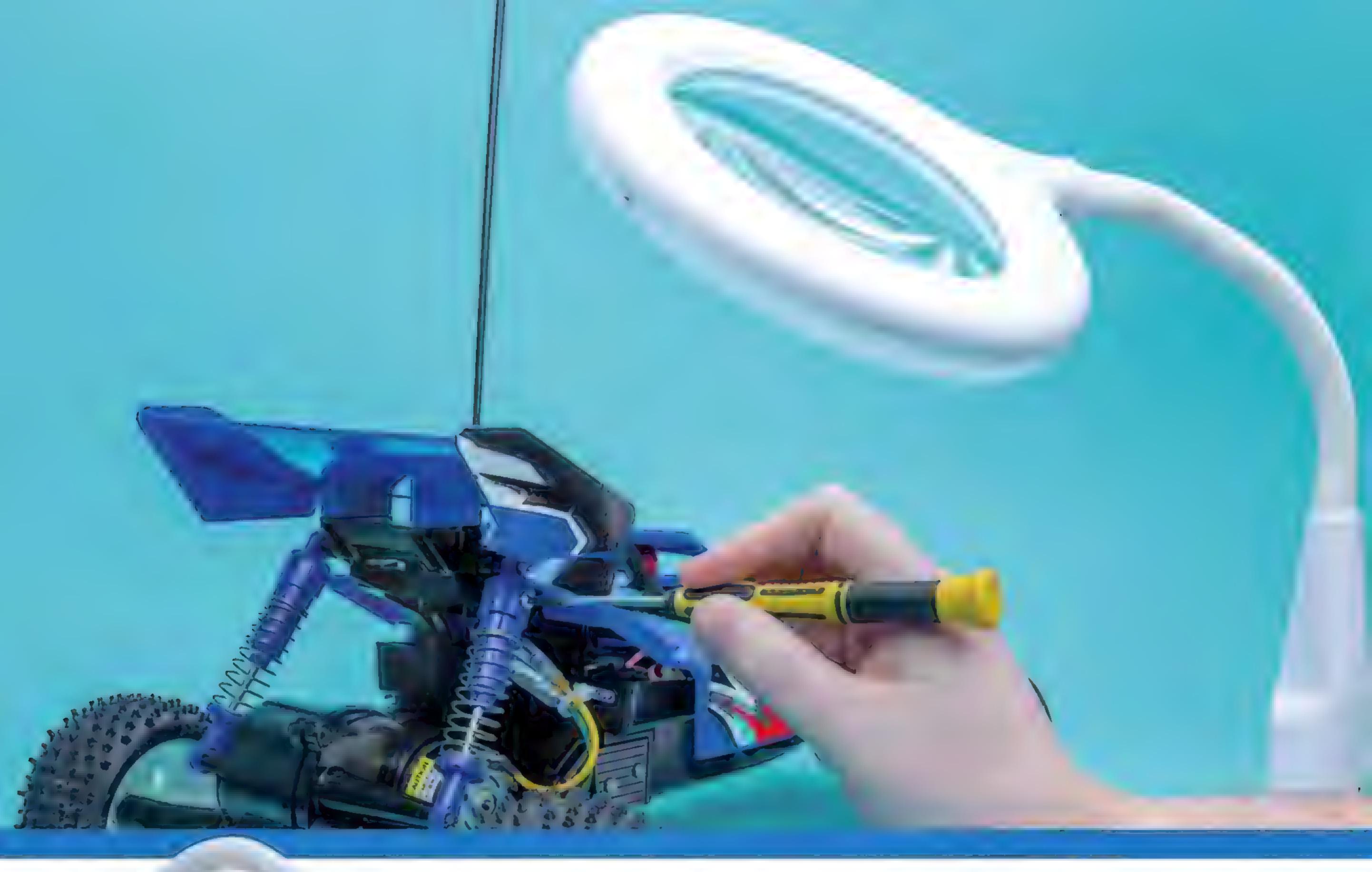
Injection-moulded polystyrene, photo-etched brass, waterslide decals

Availability

Takom models are widely available from good model shops and online. UK import and distribution by

"Among all the ground-based anti-aircraft guns of World War II, the Kugelblitz is undoubtedly one of the most distinctive..."







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## M8 LIGHT ARMOURED CAR GREYHOUND

he M8 light armoured car was a 6×6 vehicle produced by the Ford Motor Company during World War II. It was used from 1943 by United States and British forces in Europe and the Pacific until the end of the war. The vehicle was widely exported and as of 2024 still remained in service with some countries. In British service, the M8 was known as the 'Greyhound', a service name seldom, if ever, used by the US. The British Army found it too lightly armoured, particularly the hull floor, which anti-tank mines could easily penetrate (the crews' solution was lining the floor of the crew compartment with sandbags). Nevertheless, it was produced in large numbers. The M8 Greyhound's excellent road mobility made it a great supportive element in the advancing American and British armoured columns.

Largely thanks to the outstanding efforts of Andy Klein and his 'Andy's Hobby Headquarters' brand, the 'big' scale of 1:16

has had a serious revival of late, the company producing some incredible kits, all at very reasonable prices considering the size of them. One of the newest is the M8 Light Armoured Car, an American battlefield icon of World War Two and handsome machine to boot.

The kit comprises eighteen sprues of grey polystyrene (plus hull floor), one sprue of clear plastic, an aluminium main gun barrel, two lengths of braided copper wire, a small fret of photo-etched brass and a sheet two sheets of waterslide decals, one carrying national insignia and vehicle numbers, the other providing a plethora of data placards, dashboard instrument faces and uniform insignia for the crew figure provided.

It's a magnificent box-load of parts and a mouthwatering proposition: as we stated in the preview of Gecko Models's Universal Carrier, who'd ever have thought we would ever have a 1:16 kit of this vehicle offered to us? The box-top wording states that the kit

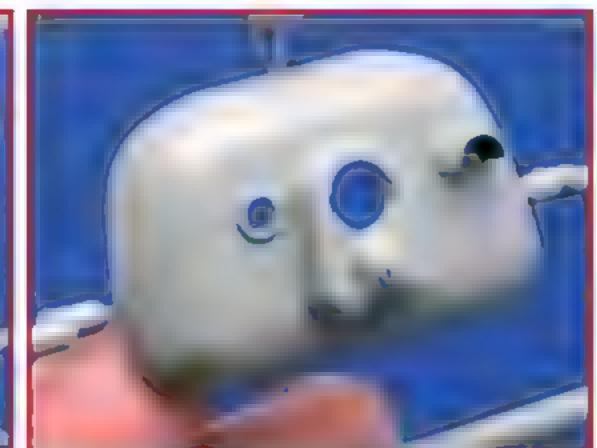
is made in cooperation with Takom, so we are in good hands here, as they have a lot of experience in producing highly detailed and accurate models that are well engineered and go together really nicely.

Having stated the kit comes on eighteen sprues, it is not a overwhelmingly complex project, and it shouldn't take ages to assemble. No engine is included and this will speed up construction, leaving more of that precious workbench time to paint and weather it up. Decals are included for ten US Greyhounds, plus one captured machine in German markings if you fancy something a little different. In our opinion, the US Army schemes are the ones to go for though!

An incredible achievement then, from Andy Klein, who must be one of the busiest people in the hobby industry. Hats off to him, for this and the other fantastic, large-scale AFV kits in the range, with many more to come.

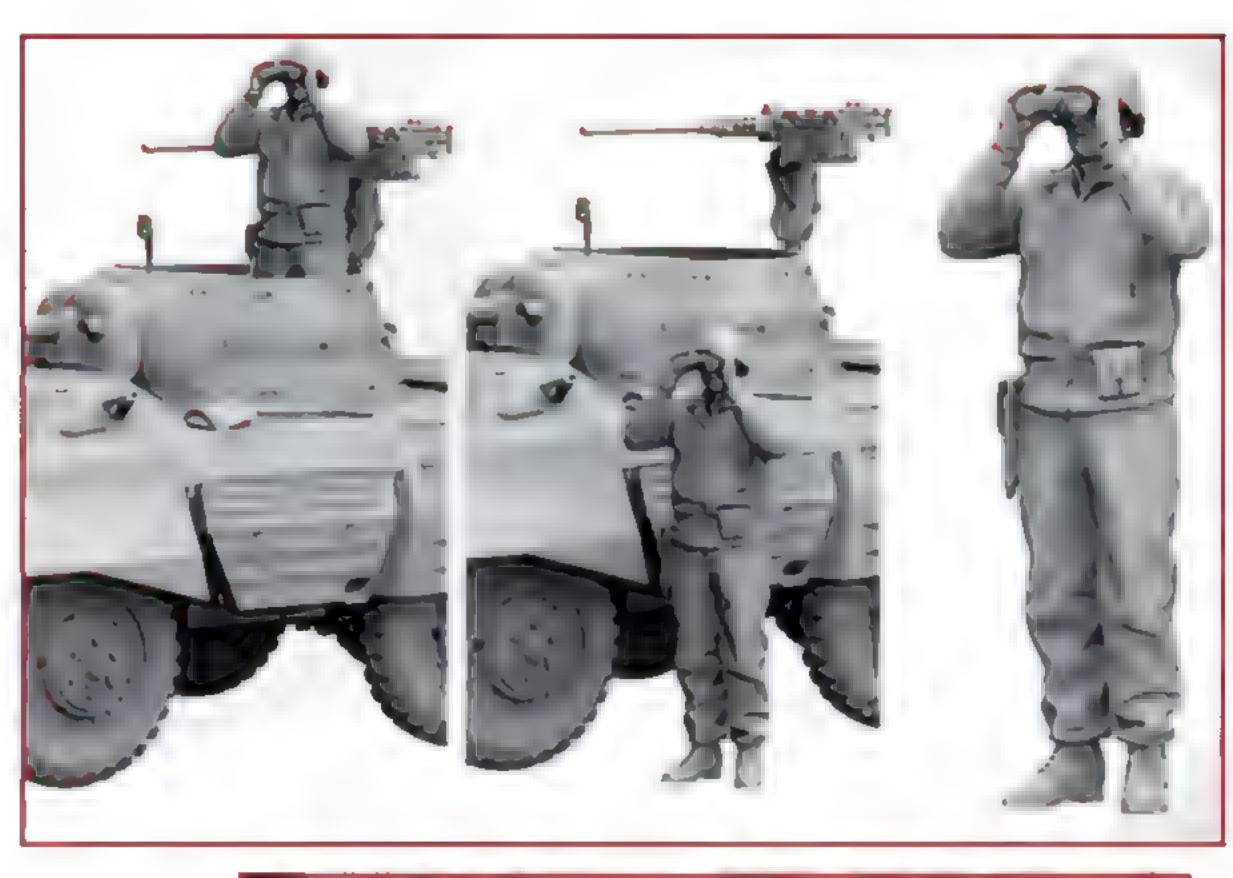












## JASON STUDIO FIGURES

With the AHHQ kit, a single crewman is provided, digitally 'sculpted' and made into three-dimensional, injection-moulded form by supremely talented designer Jason Wong of Jason Studio. There is also a four-man resin crew set, available for separate purchase from this manufacturer and whilst quite pricey, the figures are stunning and will bring the model to life. (www.jason-studio.com) •

## **VEHICLE SPECS**

## Engine:

Hercules JXD 6 cylinder four-cylinder inline petrol engine 110hp

## Transmission:

Synchromesh, four speeds forward, one reverse

## Suspension:

Leaf spring

## Maximum speed:

- 55mph (89km/h) on road

## Main armament:

- 37mm gun M6, 80 rounds

## Secondary armament:

- .50 calibre (12.7 mm) Browning M2HB machine gun 400 rounds
- .30 calibre (7.62mm) Browning M1919 machine gun 1,500 rounds

## AVAILABILITY;

Andy's Hobby Headquarters: www.andyshhq.com



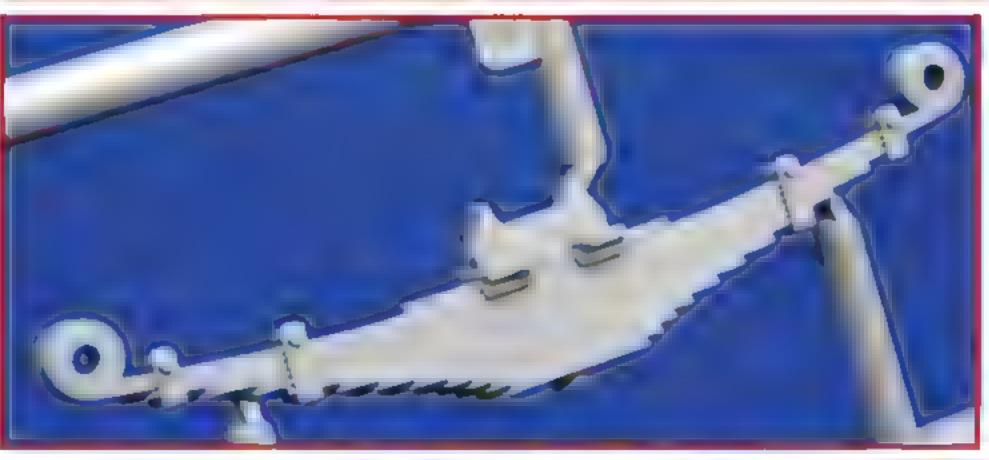


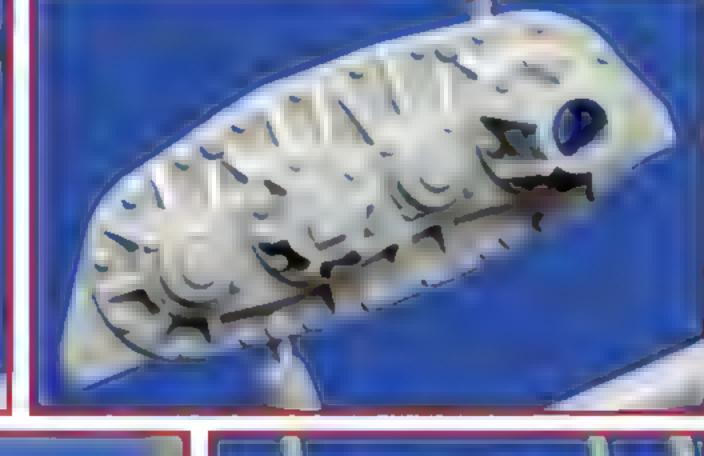


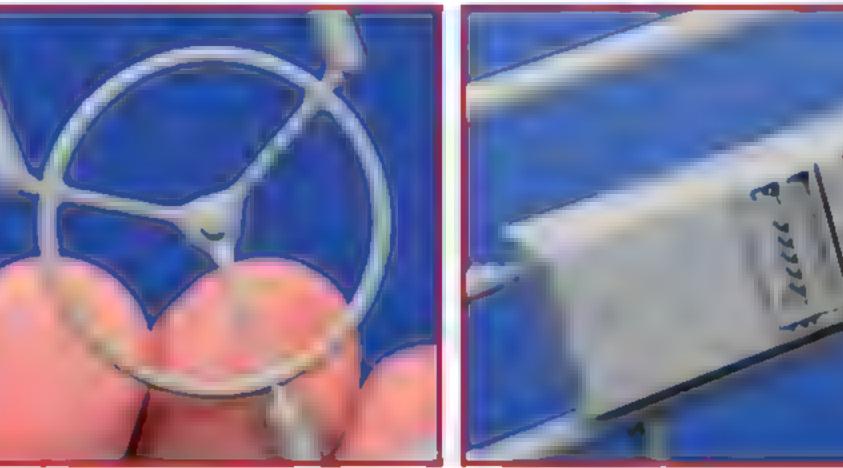
















## KING OF THE BIG CATS

Zack Sex brings us some useful modelling photo-references for the Tiger II at the world-famous 'Musée Des Blindés' tank museum at Saumur, France

Photographs taken at Musée Des Blindés, Saumur: www.museedesblindes.fr









"THE TIGER II WAS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE TIGER I, COMBINING THE LATTER'S THICK ARMOUR WITH THE ARMOUR SLOPING USED ON THE PANTHER MEDIUM TANK"

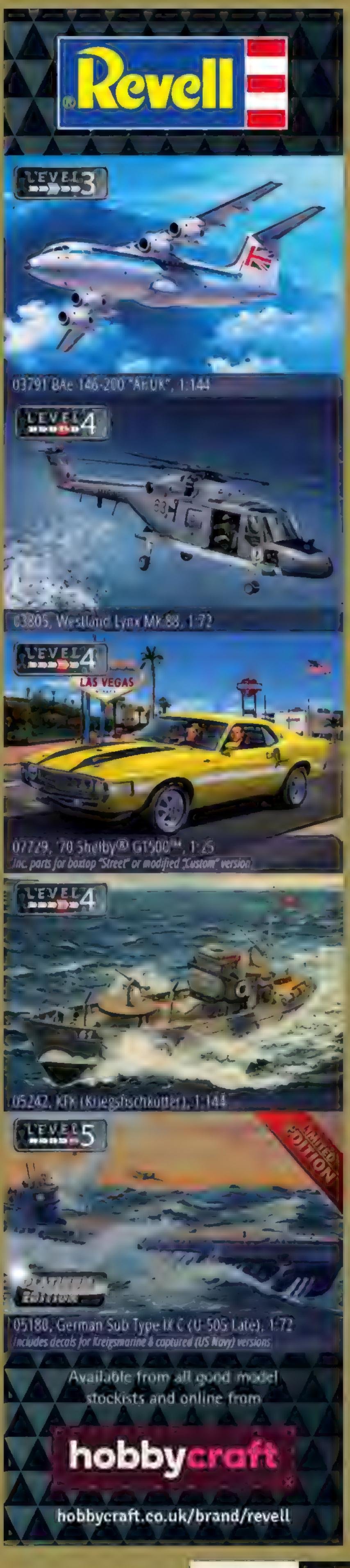




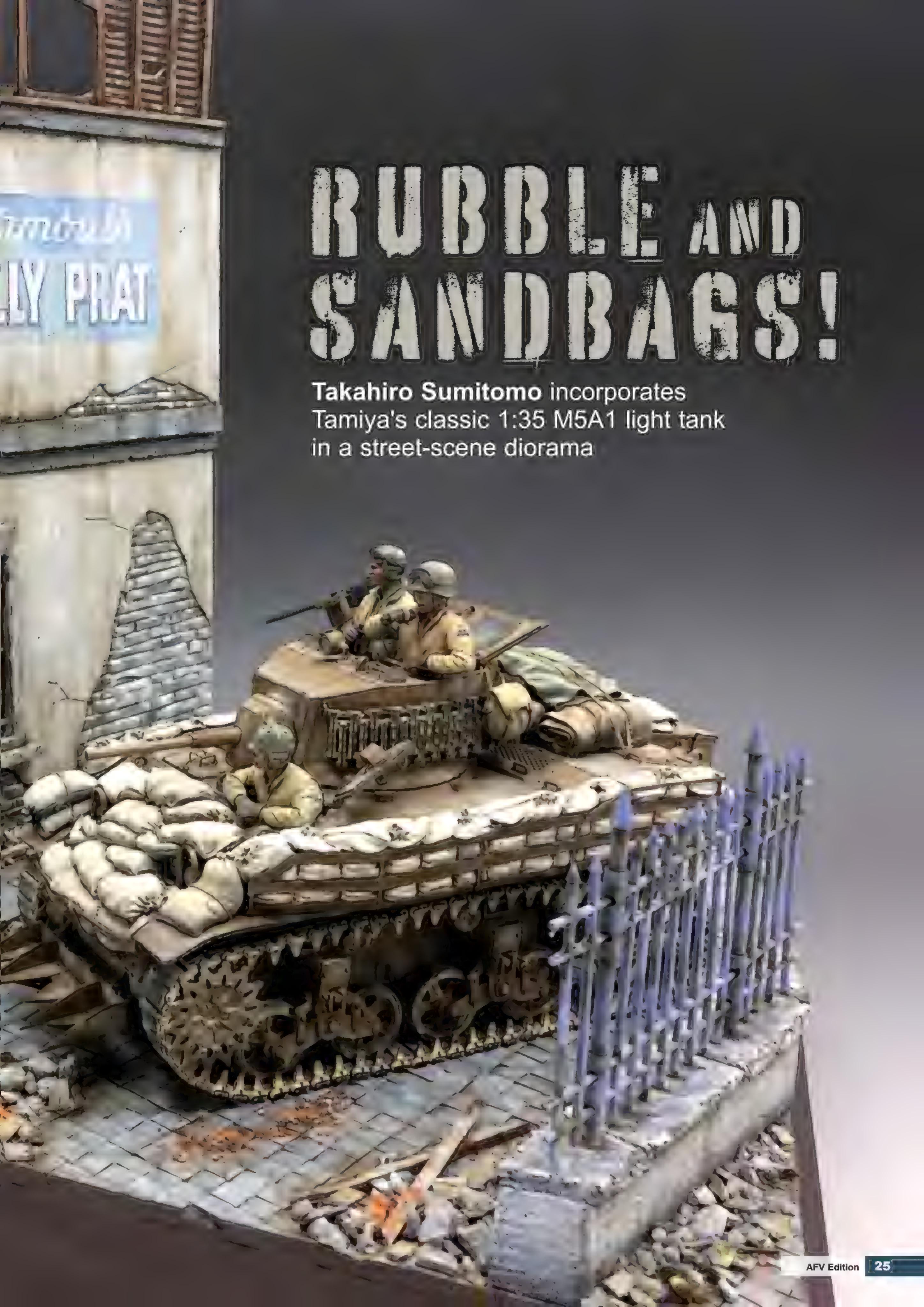
"THE COLLECTION AT SAUMUR IS COMPRISES SOME 800 VEHICLES (TANKS, TROOP TRANSPORTS, ARTILLERY VEHICLES, ENGINEERING VEHICLES), OF WHICH MORE THAN 200 ARE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC IN A SPACE OF MORE THAN 10,000M2"











## WARING THE VEHICLES

started assembling Tamiya's M5A1 Hedgehog, and I wanted to remove the side skirts, so I cut the front of the fender. I wanted to make a vehicle that was fully loaded with stowage and sandbags, so I used the resin parts from Legend Productions M5A1 Stowage set (pic 1). The fit of parts and moulding to the vehicle were excellent, and the vehicle looked excellent. The kit tracks were replaced with a prefabricated type from AFV Club. Mr. Surfacer (black) was sprayed over the entire surface of the model and Tamiya acrylic flat white was then sprayed on top. The olive drab was airbrushed with Vallejo acrylic colours (pics 2 to 6). ➤



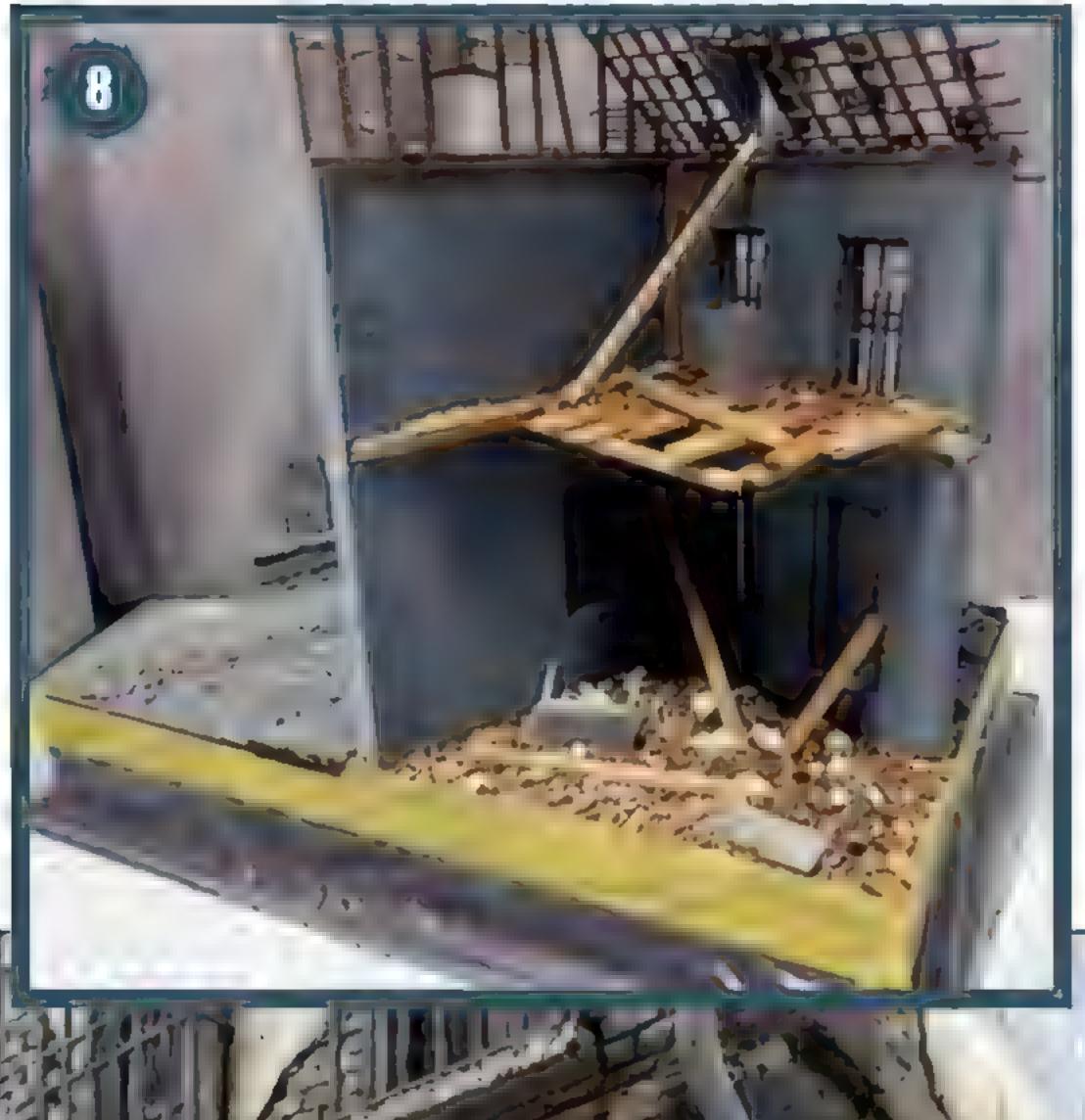






# BUILDING, THE BUILDING:

by Proxxon) and assembled it. The roof part was reused from a building I bought online and I added some work using cork sheets and balsa wood. The window frames and shutters were from the kit but the doors, window frames, and roof tiles were made by myself using a 3D printer (pics 7, 8). The base was then rushed with gesso. Tamiya acrylic flat white was airbrushed from above to bring out the colour and the base coat was brushed-applied using Lifecolor acrylics, followed by a colour-wash with AK Interactive Streaking Grime; enamel-paint solvent dissolves styrofoam, but it's fine because it had been coated with gesso (pic 9). The wall decals come from Reality In Scale's 'Weathered Wall Advertising Decal Set France'. I was a large decal, but it adhered well and retain an excellent texture. I coated it with matte acrylic from above (pic 10).

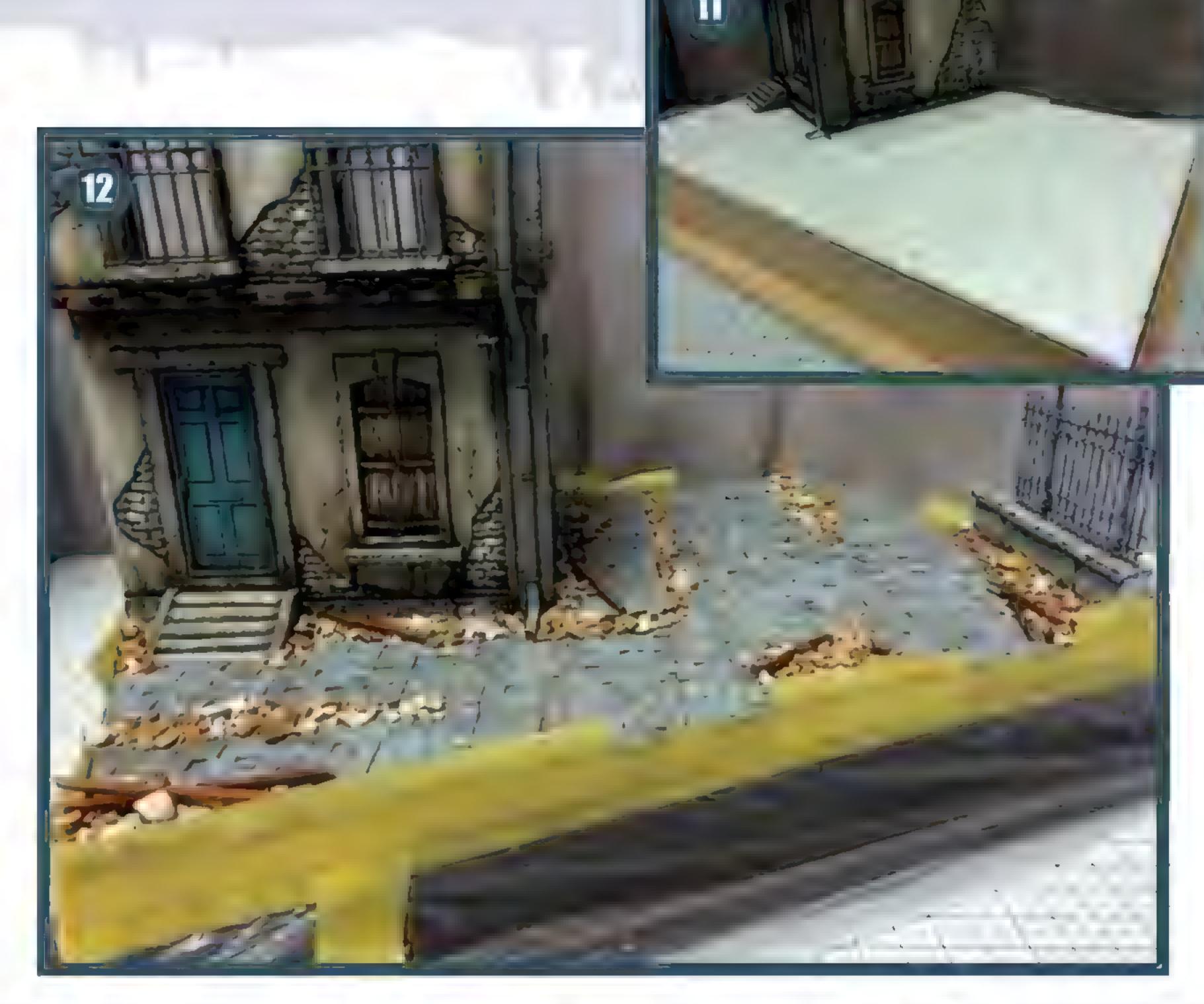






# 

The cobblestones were made from s Tamiya 3mm styrene board. I made a template and cut it out based on that. I cut the grid pattern with a cutter, then used a flathead screwdriver to randomly press in and out to create the bumps (pic 11). The fence on the right was made using a 3D printer and the rubble was created by mixing barbecue chips, coloured zeolite and pebbles used in model railroading and applying it with a spoon. I shaped it by sweeping it with a brush, poured on water-soluble wood glue on top and left it overnight (pic 12). And there we have it, a sandbag-covered tank in a rubble-covered environment!









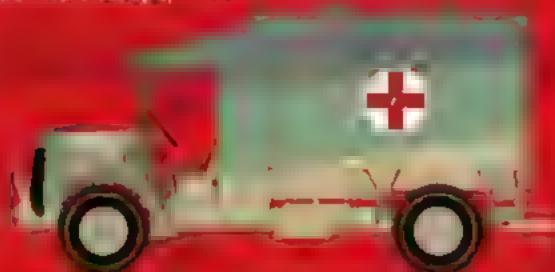




## AUSTIN K2/Y AMBULANCE



AUSTIN K2/Y AMBULANCE
30 Carps, Mater Ambulance Convey, Royal Army Service Carps,
North West Europe, 1944



AUSTIN K2/Y AMBULANCE British Army, Routh Africo, 1940



British Army, Alexandria, Egypt, 1942.



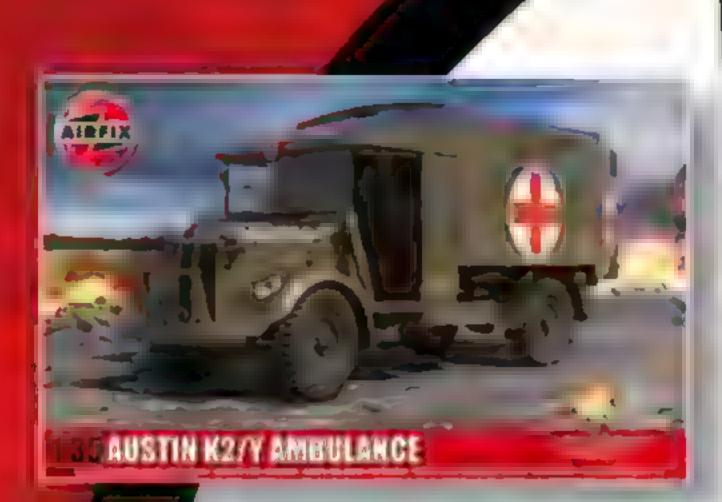
Length 178mm Width 68mm Pieces 146

Auxiliary Territorial Service, England, 1944

## A1375 AUSTIN K2/Y AMBULANCE

One of the most famous vehicles of its type the Austin K2/Y Ambulance was used extensively by British and Commanwealth forces throughout WWII, both in the combat zones of the world and on the home front. Built around the chassis of the Austin K30 light truck, the casualty compartment was developed in conjunction with the Royal Army Medical Corps and therefore proved to be highly functional. Able to carry either four stretcher cases or ten seated casualties, one of the main reasons why the K2/Y was so successful was because it was so rugged and reliable, requiring only a minimum of maintenance - an ambulance should always be ready when you need it. The rear cabin was typically constructed of painted canvas on

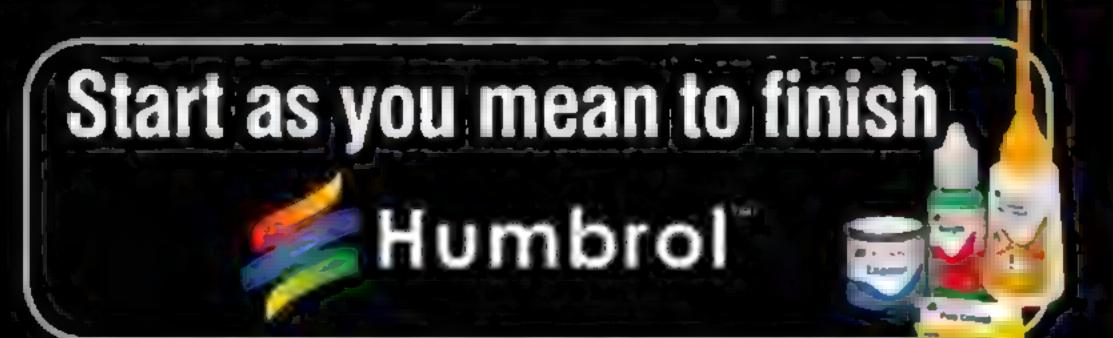
red cross on a white disk positioned prominently on all sides to hopefully ensure the vehicles occupants didn't come under fire



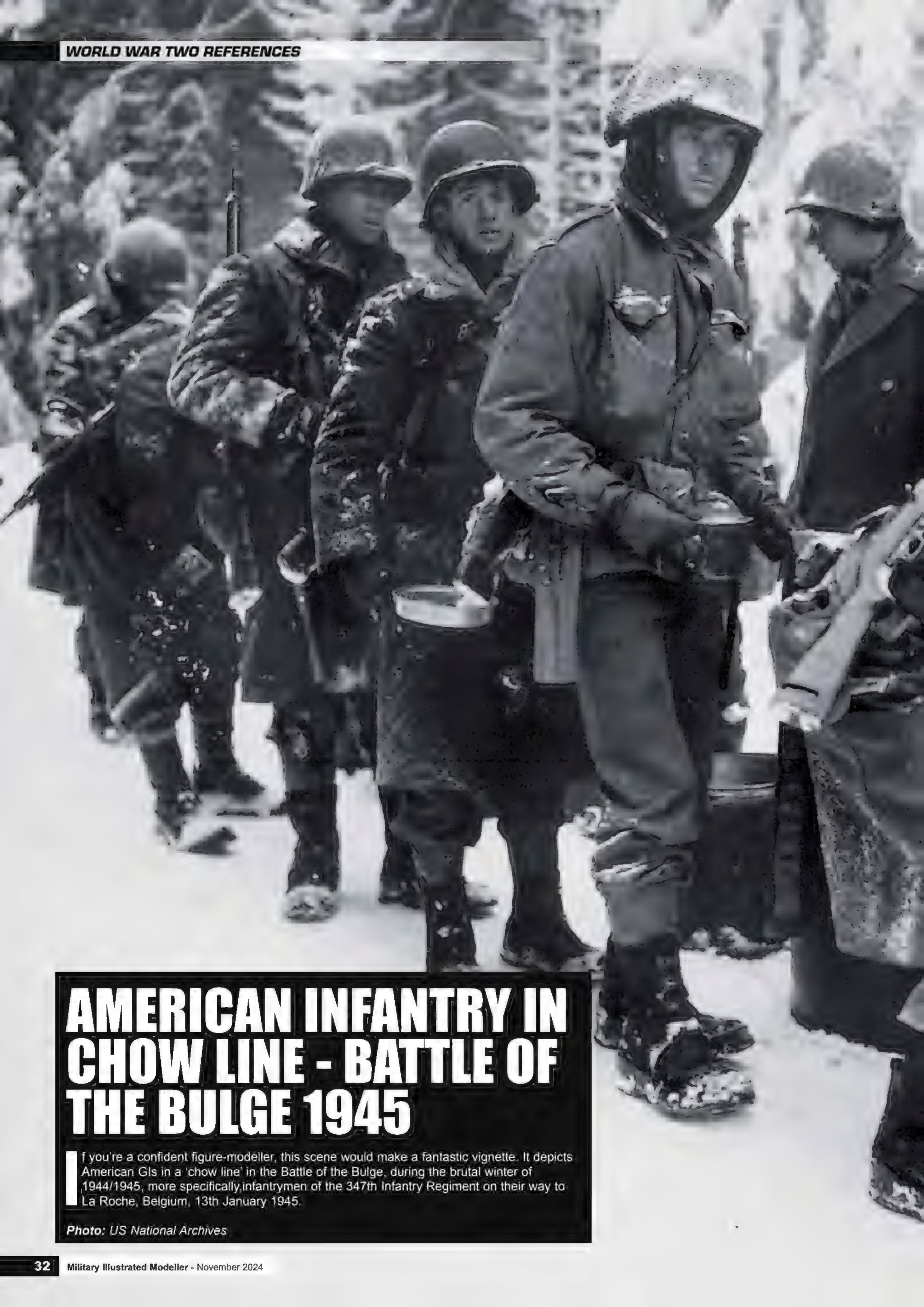
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# THE LETE ITS AKNOCK OUT

Pierre Cardon creates some realistic burnt-out effects on MiniArt's British M3 Lee



the first M3 Lees in service in the British Army in North Africa, at the beginning of 1942. Here, we see it being inspected after being destroyed by Rommel's panzers. I was inspired by a period photo that shows an M3 that received a large number of impacts before being destroyed.



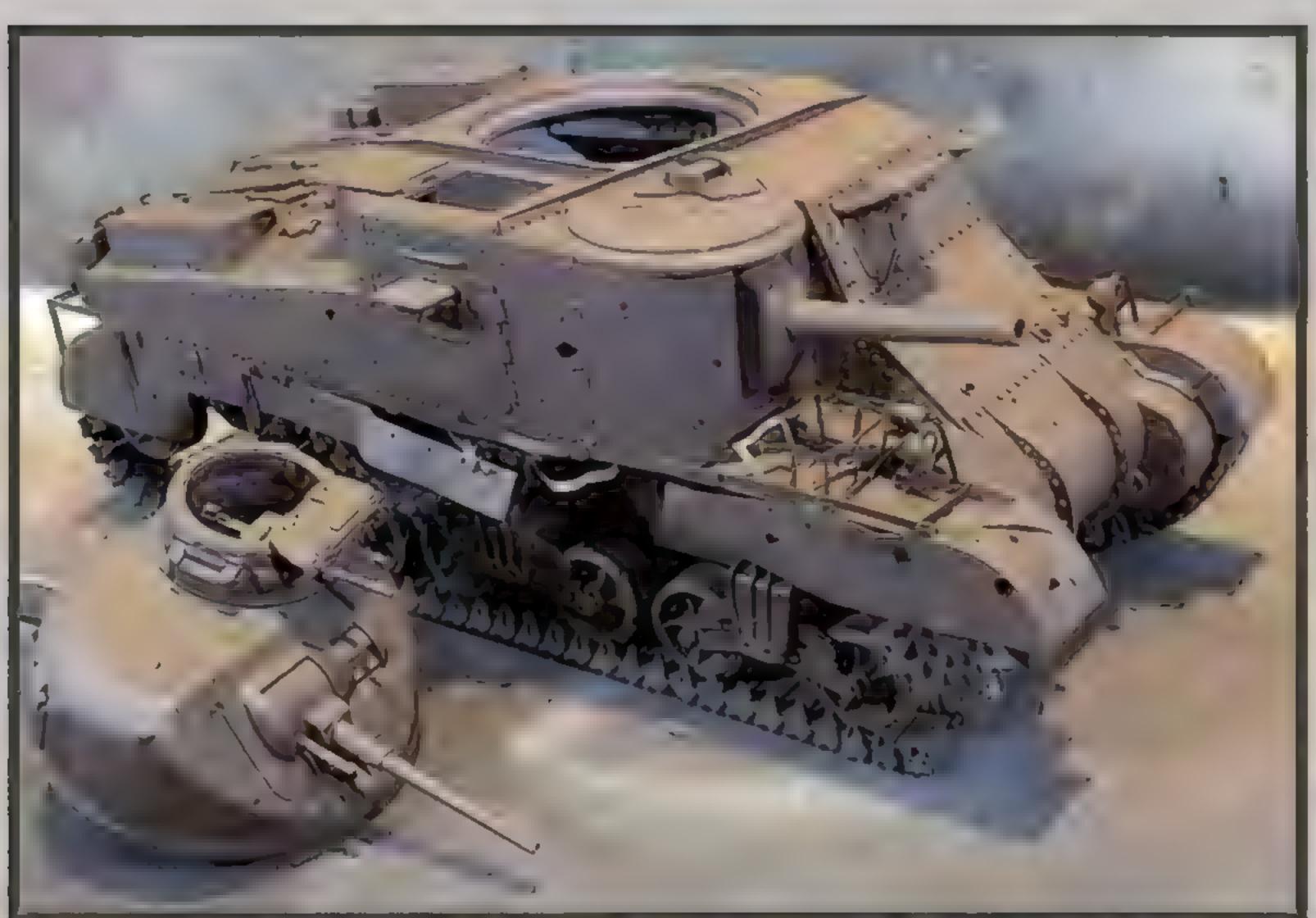
Completed assembly of the M3 Lee British from MiniArt. The kit tracks were replaced with vinyl tracks from Italeri, which were much easier and faster to install; they will be hidden by the mudguards and almost buried



View of the damage caused by several impacts of different calibers, they are made with heated nails of different sizes, the plastic of the mudguards is deformed after being gently heated with a lit cigarette



Rear view of the M3, showing the photo etched parts provided with the kit



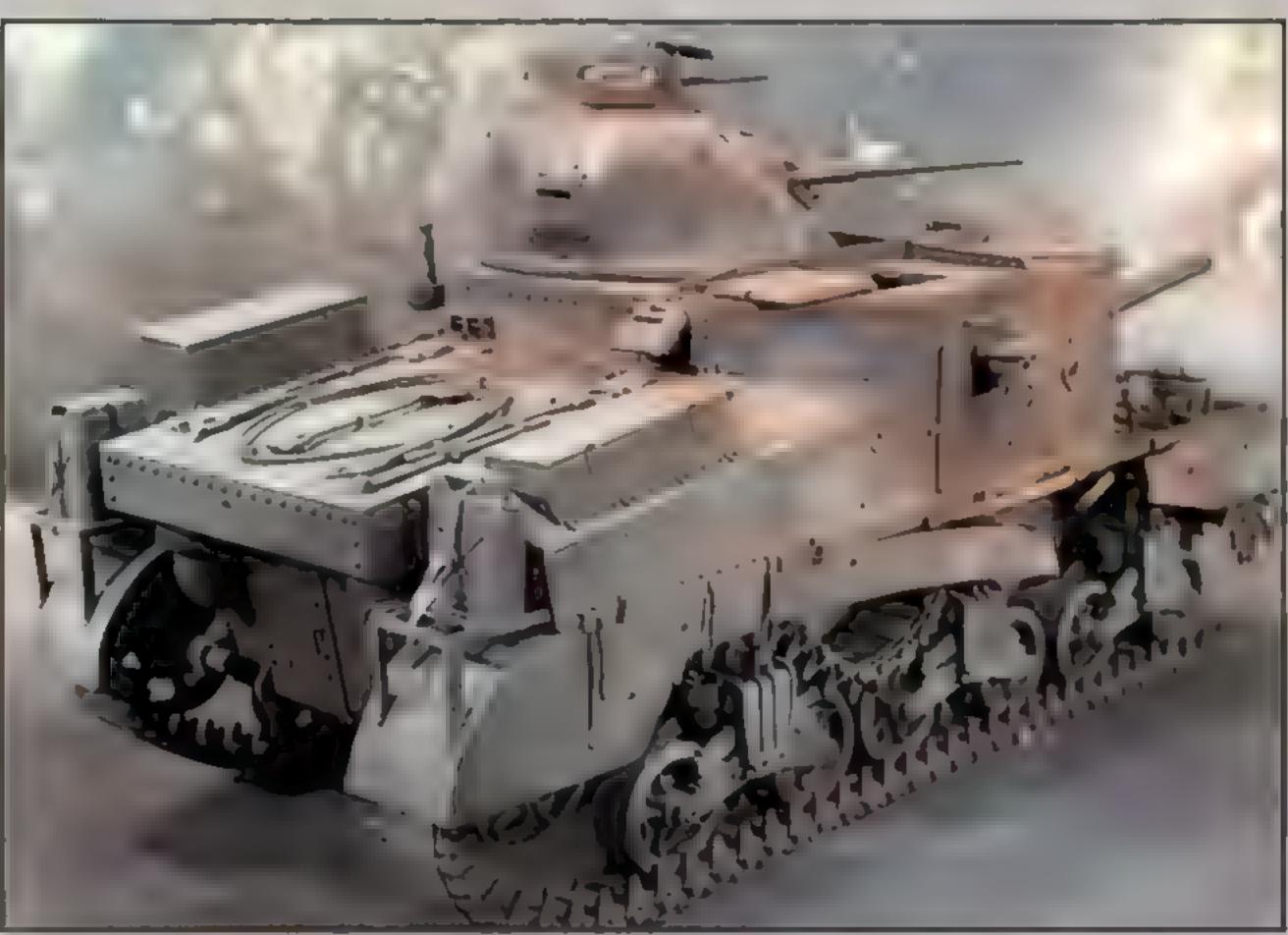
A light coat of gritty wall-decoration paint was applied to accentuate the texture of the rusty effect after the fire, followed by primer made with a mixture of red and black and applied by airbrush



We can already see the texture of the burnt metal, some damage also to the rubber strips of the wheels



A light coat of orange mixed with white was airbrushed to accentuate the rust effect



A little colour variation using Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow was applied to the back of the M3's hull



After complete drying, a layer of hair lacquer was applied to the entire tank



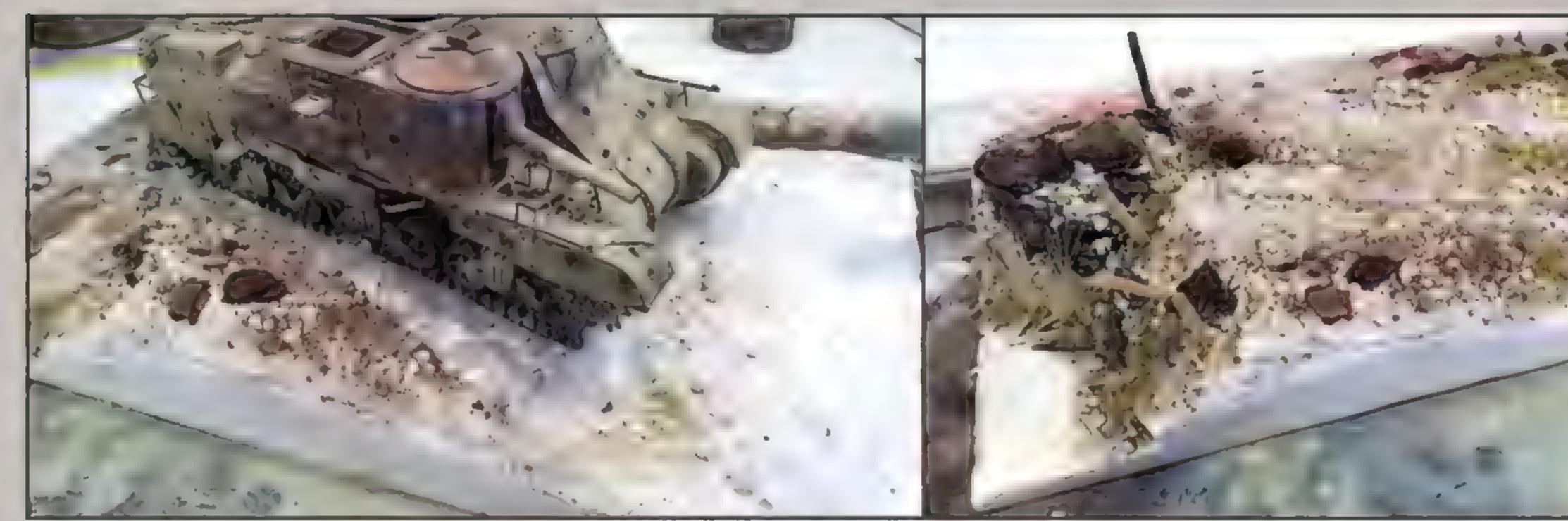
The painting was carried out with light passes of XF-60 gradually lightened with white, and mixed with green for the mudguards





A little real rust powder was applied with a brush here and there. The driver's armoured glass was patinated with matt white to simulate the burnt effect. A little metallic pigment was applied to the edges of the shell impacts. A little diluted orange oil paint was placed in the recesses





I cut out a block of styrofoam that I then coated with filler and added some sand and a few small pebbles. A sheet of plastic was laid a on the still fresh ground and the M3 placed on it to clearly mark the tracks' imprint in the ground, to avoid the 'floating' effect



With diluted white glue, a little static grass was sprinkled on, and added few balsa wood posts. The plants are made from paint brush hairs, fixed with diluted white glue



Black primer was sprayed across the diorama to begin the painting process



Several successive layers of lightening were applied to the ground



The M3 is placed in its pre-formed imprint. The edges of the diorama were painted black to give more contrast and highlighting







# MINIART 1:35 BRITISH M3 LEE KIT NO.35270

### Materials:

Injection-moulded polystyrene, photo-etched brass, waterslide decals

# Availability:

www.miniart-models.com
MiniArt models, and accessories
are widely available from good
model shops and online. UK
import and distribution by
www.creativemodels.co.uk









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# OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS? PAINTING AND WEATHERING A BIR-70 IN 'AMISON' SERVICE

Chema Cabrero asks if we can enjoy the paint process and weathering effects using a basic and cheap kit? The answer is yes, using Vallejo acrylic paint products!

he BTR-70 model is an old Dragon release, with acceptable detail level and correct dimensions, re-marketed by Zvezda offering several versions. The idea was to build it out of the box with some simple improvements, adding photoetched parts over the engine accesses and detailing the KPVT, proposing a different painting and weathering process than usual in terms of order and applications.

The hobbyist has aftermarket options for this kit such as resin wheels to replace the rubber ones, turned metal machine guns with great detail, photo-etched sheets, resin turrets, etc., but in this case, the total project cost was much higher than the Trumpeter kit, for example. So my idea was to build it out of the box and experiment with the painting processes.





### **▼ ROADMAP**

I chose to represent one of those veteran vehicles from African wars, in this case in the Somalia theatre of operations, of the 'AMISON' (African Union in Somalia) units, with the characteristic yellowish-green in that conflict. To do this, I started by unifying the model materials using a Vallejo primer, which I used as an intermediate tone in terms of hue.

Subsequently, as a plan for the worn paint areas, I chose a dark green 4BO tone, defining both volume and lighting as well as the areas that will show subtle operational wear and chipping, without excesses or high contrast. The next step would be to cover the whole with a layer of Vallejo Chipping Medium. Once dry, I applied the yellowish-green tones common in Eritrea (in Asmara there is still a cemetery of abandoned vehicles where we can observe very interesting images), Somalia, Angola, Libya, Afghanistan, or even in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, in the village of Buryakovka.

I used several colours from Vallejo's new Game Color range, which present the perfect tone for our purposes, diluting them with a 50/50 ratio, half paint and half Vallejo Airbrush thinner, obtaining three mixes with different saturations but within the same tone scale, as base, shadow, and light.

# PRIMER

I covered the model with a uniform layer of Vallejo Primer, using it directly in the airbrush without needing dilution. The primer not only unifies materials but allows one to detect any defects on the kit's surface. It is advisable to apply several thin uniform layers instead of trying to cover the entire model with a single thick layer

# BASE TONES

Once the base layer is dry, I used Vallejo Model Air colours to create light and shadow effects, defining the areas where the worn paint will be seen later. I also painted the wheel covers with Anthracite Grey. To add an interesting detail, I finished the spare wheel rim in red, using Game Color 72011

# FADED GREEN COAT

Now I applied a uniform layer of Chipping Medium and once dry (about forty minutes) I sprayed a final irregular layer of the characteristic green tone that we can observe in reference photographs. For this, I used two Game Color paints, plus a third one intended to lighten the previous tones. Sometimes the modeller must ignore the names with which a paint is marketed and use them according to their criteria





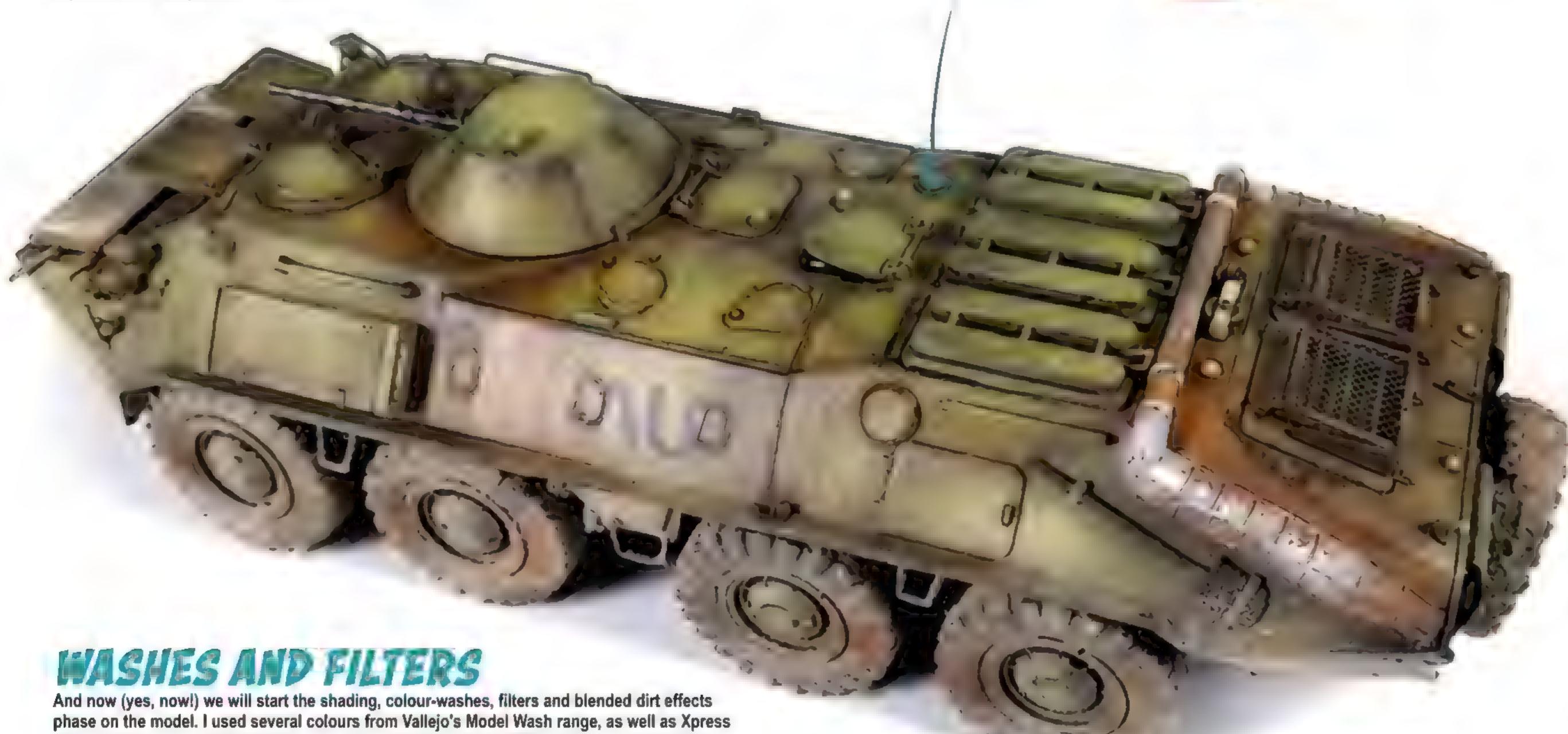




# DRY MUD AND DUST

In some areas, we can further blur the dirt effects using Vallejo Airbrush thinner.

As master Sheperd Paine said, armoured vehicles love dirt! It is now time to apply dusting effects and accumulations of dry mud and splashes, for this, I used several shades of Vallejo pigment, which I applied densely on the wheels, using a mixture of pigments and Vallejo airbrush thinner





Color Mahogany and Wasteland Brown. The properties and versatility of these products allow

them to be applied with an airbrush, creating soft glazes, applied diluted with a brush with great

capillarity as a wash and as a filter, representing areas of accumulated dirt. Finally, we can blend

their strokes and brushstrokes smoothly to create blending effects on the sides of the vehicle.









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MINIART 1/35

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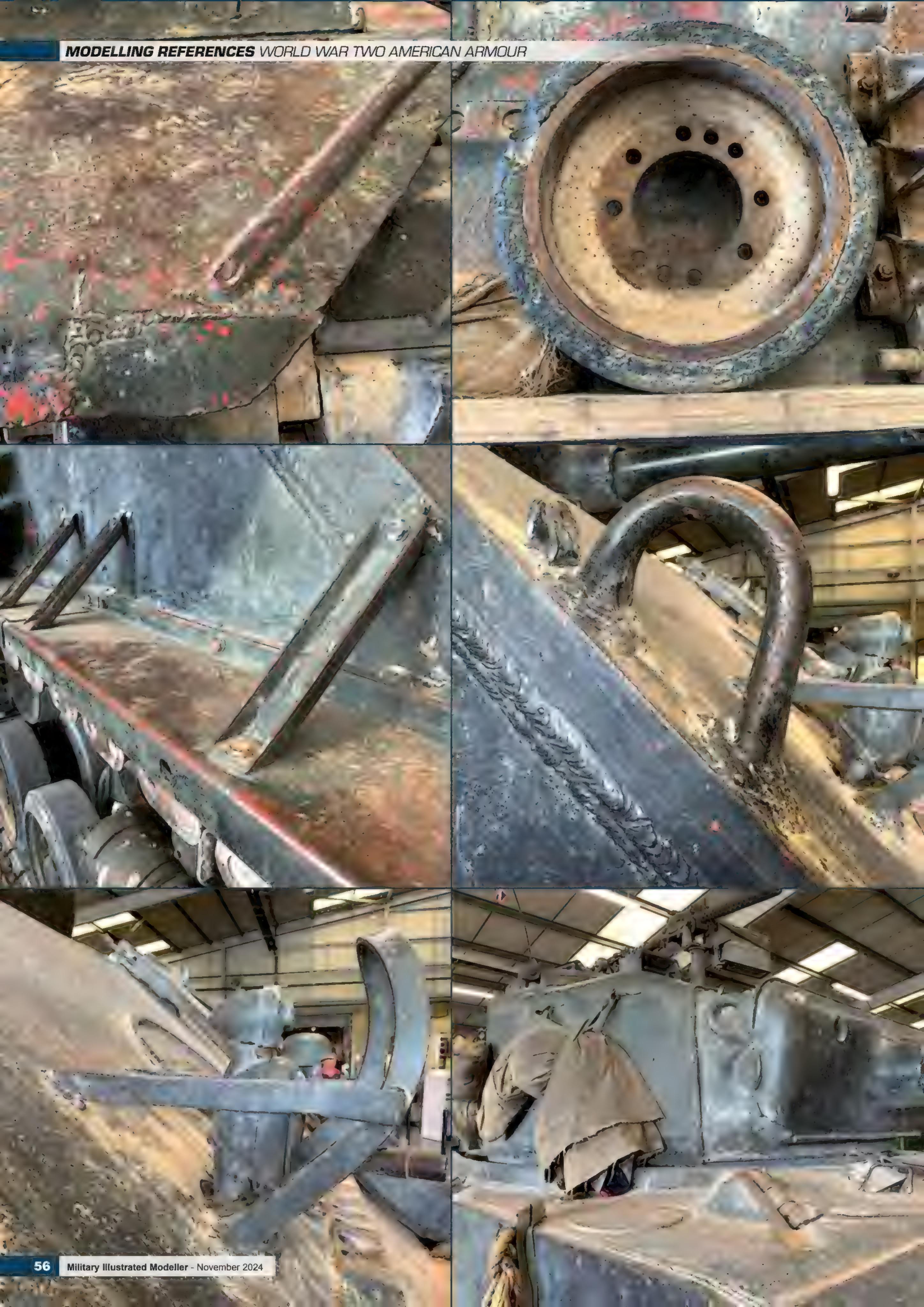


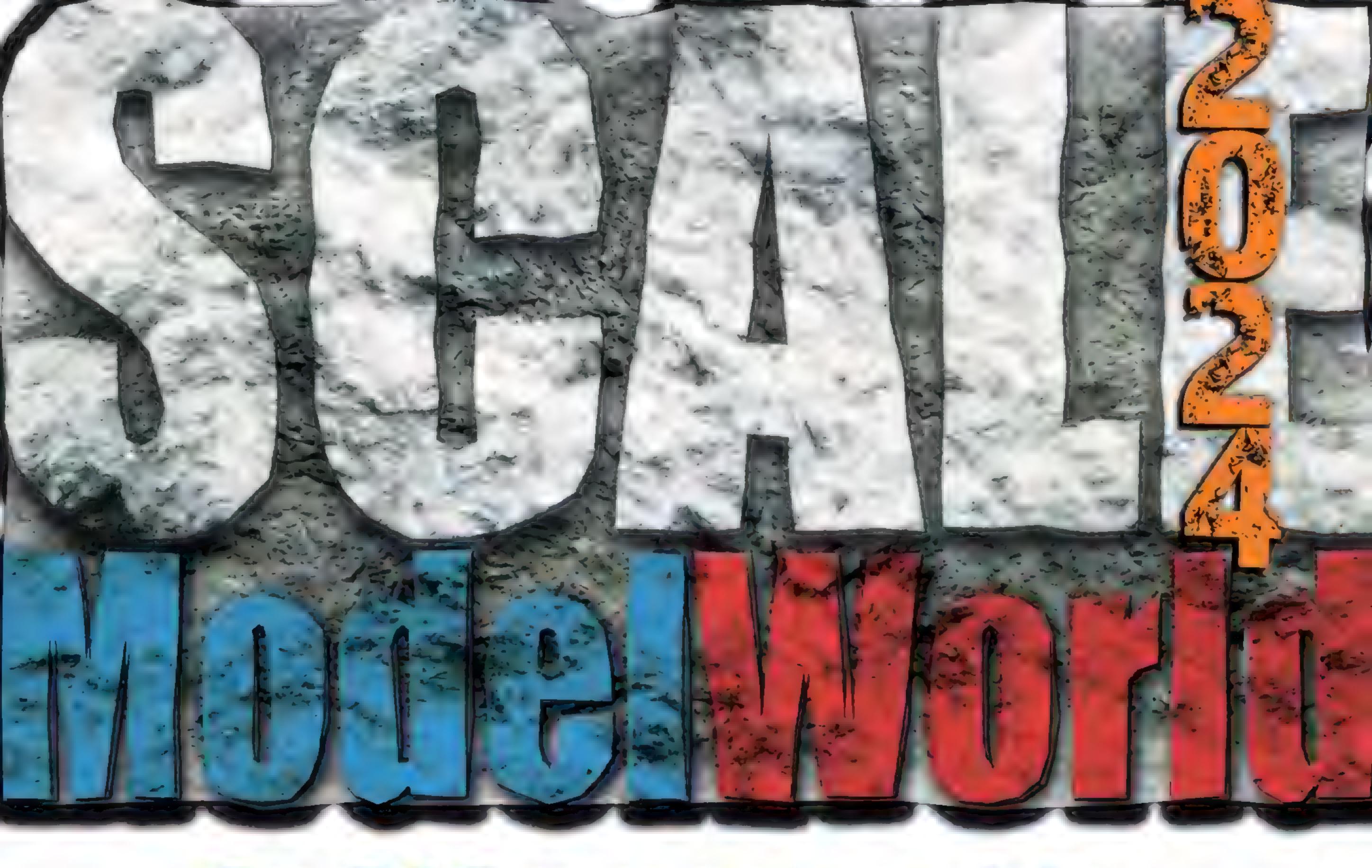












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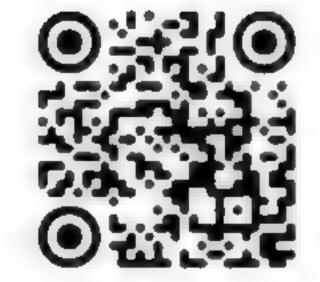
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# Marcus Nicholls checks out the all-new Universal Carrier in 1:16 from Gecko Models, the ideal size for this classic WW2 British vehicle?

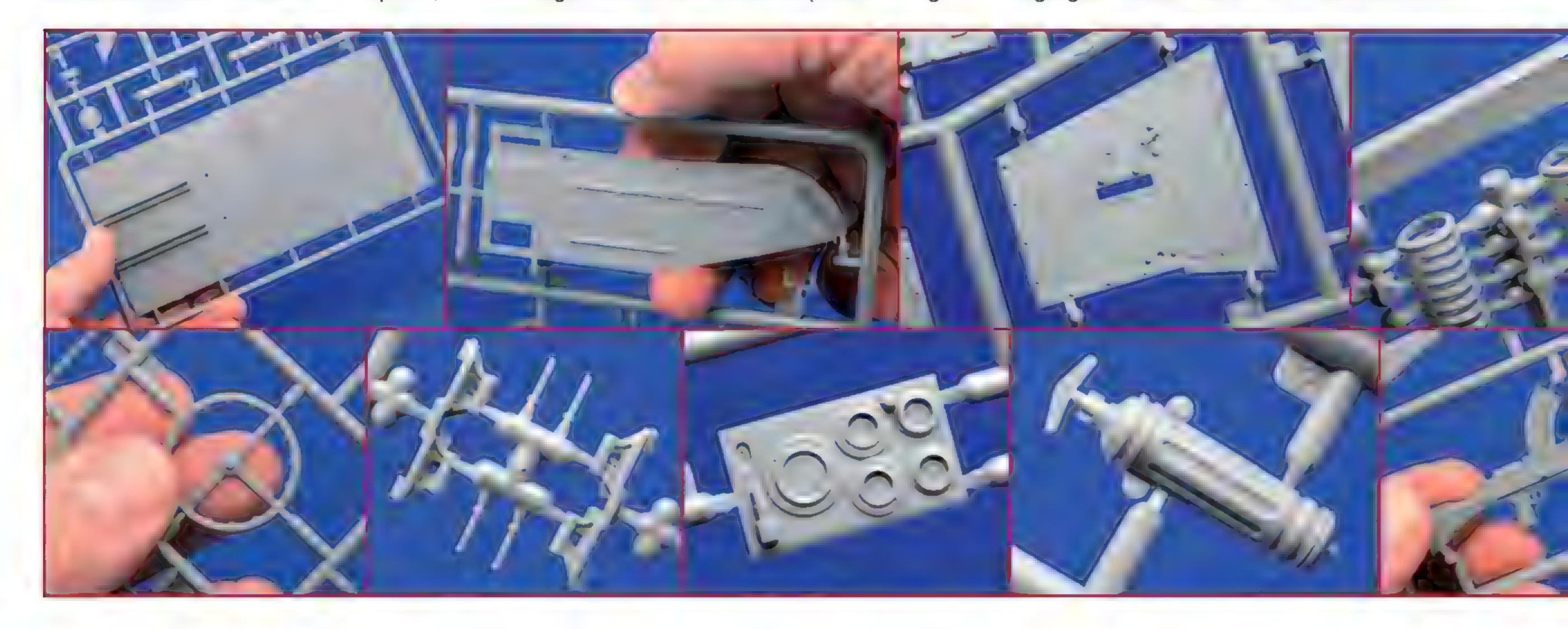
ho'd ever have thought we'd have a large-scale kit — in injection-moulded polystyrene — of the British World War Two Universal Carrier? Well, it's 2024 and all sorts of things are possible now, and Gecko Models has obliged with the extraordinary model you see here. Forty+ sprues of grey polystyrene, a sheet of photo-etched brass, braided copper wire, a length of copper chain and waterslide decals will be found inside the deep box,

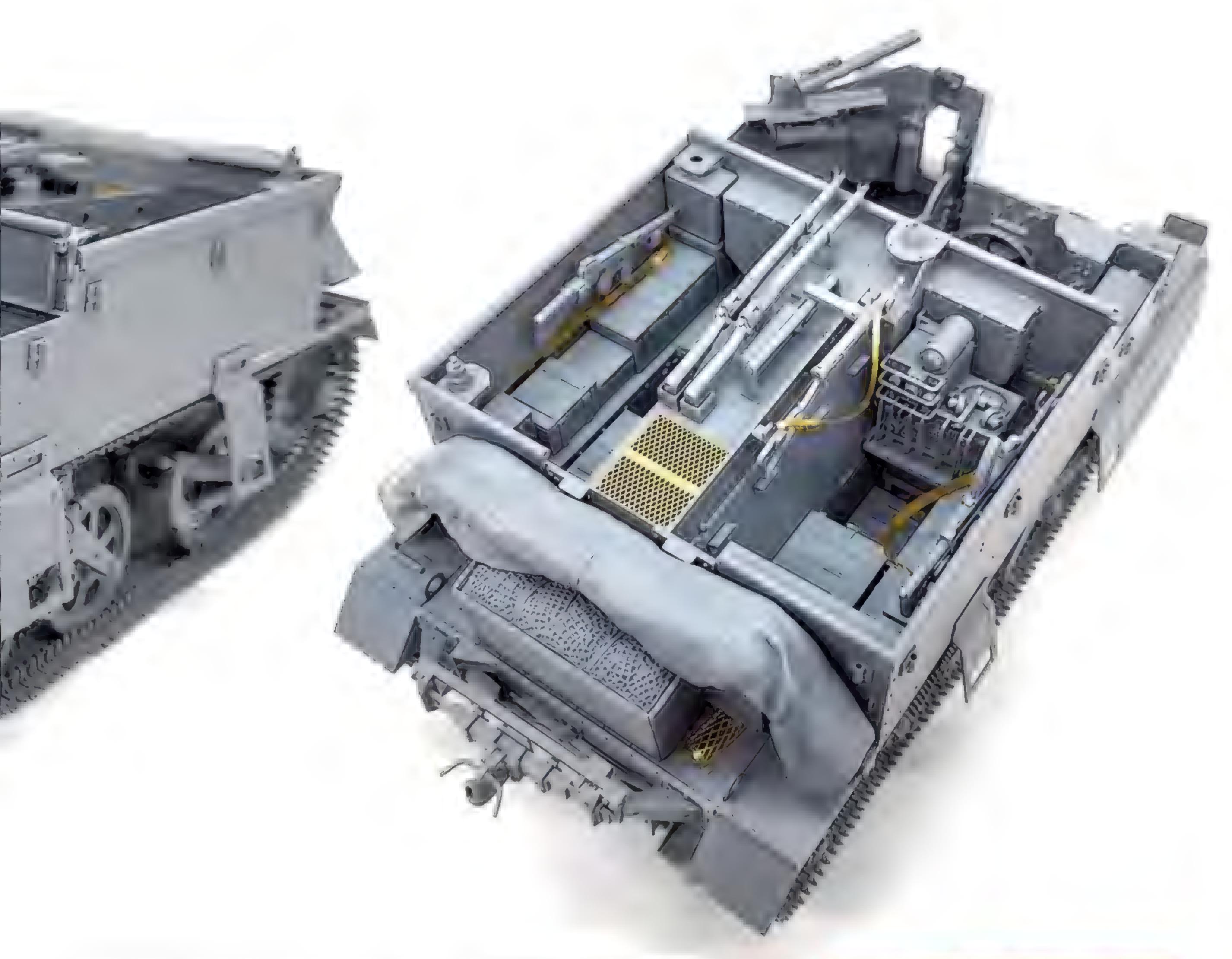
along with a thirty-two page instruction booklet to guide the modeller through the fifty or so steps of construction.

The kit comes with fully articulated tracks which, on the Carrier, are of a very fine pitch. This results in no less than 167 links per side, each one connected to the next by a pair of moulded pins inserted from the outer edges. The links' removal from sprues, clean-up and assembly will be an evening's work, so one might want to brew a coffee (or something

stronger), put on some music and get into the groove when joining them all up! The result will certainly be worth the effort though, as you can see nearly the entire run on each side thanks to the vehicle's open-sided design.

Before you reach the tracks though, you'll have already assembled the lower hull and suspension, and here again we have some supremely well detailed parts, the suspension bogies and their slide-moulded springs being highlights. Gecko has taken no shortcuts here:





the temptation would have been to mould the springs in with the suspension arms but in this scale it would have looked like a big compromise, so they did it the 'hard' (but superior) way.

The interior is impressively appointed, with a full set of driver's controls, vision ports, a stunning radio set and headphones plus weapons racks all depicted in full. Talking of weapons, the model includes a 2-inch mortar next to the driver (where the Bren Gun would be positioned) plus two Bren Guns, four .303

Lee-Enfields, two Thompson M1 submachine guns and a pair of Mk.2 Sten Guns, all of which look great in 1:16.

From this in-box look at the kit parts,
Gecko Models has created an absolutely
cracking miniature replica of this WW2
British and Commonwealth icon, cramming
in masses of detail inside and out and
on the stunning suspension and tracks.
An impeccable subject choice and a
mouthwatering kit: what's not to love? •



# AVAILABILITY;

Gecko Model www.gecko-models.com www.tankmuseumshop.org and good retailers everywhere



### GECKO MODELS UNIVERSAL CARRIER MK.I & II FORD V8 ENGINE (16GM0017)

Gecko's 1:16 Carrier does not come with an engine, but they do offer one as a stand-alone kit, available to buy separately. It is an absolute work of art and can be shown off on the stand that's provided in the box, or installed in the Carrier's engine bay. With a little modification to the engine cover-panels, it will still be viewable within the finished model.

# CRUNANCE DEPOT

# DEF MODEL

New wheel/tyres sets and a superb resin and photo-etched brass M113 cupola have arrived recently from DEF Model, offering very high quality and ease of use.

### 1:16 accessory sets

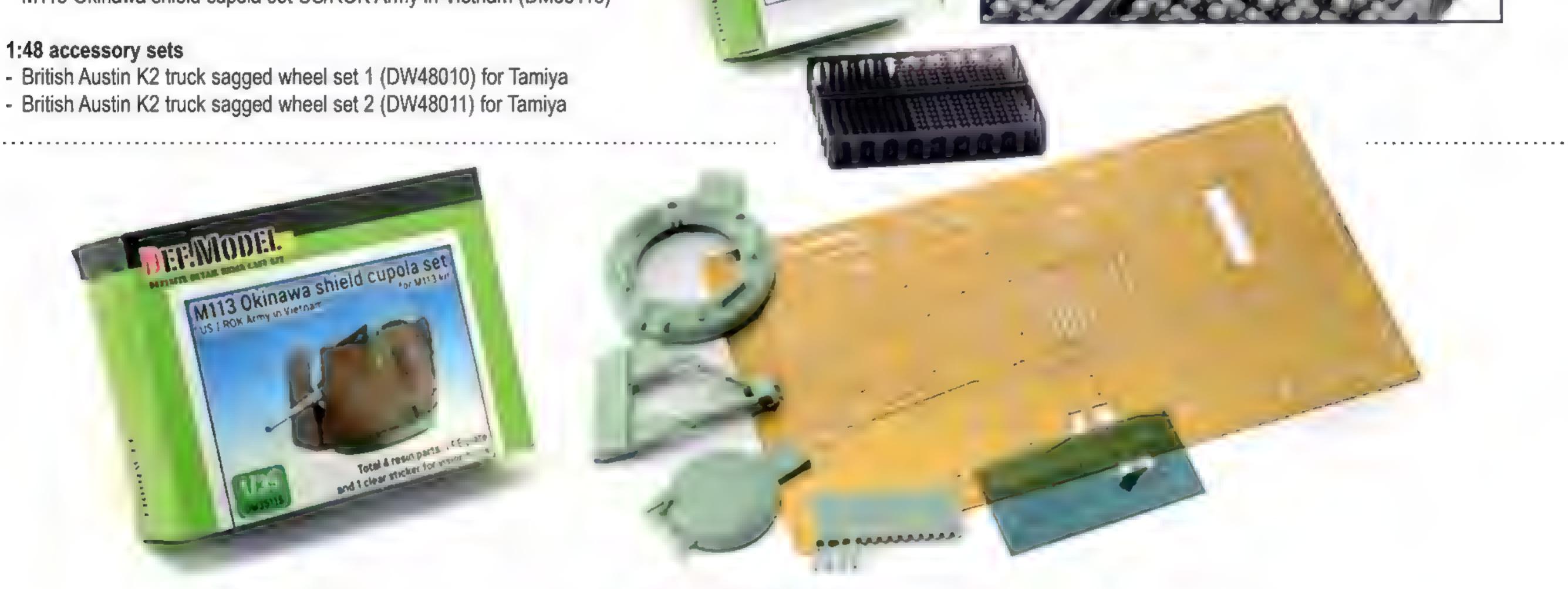
- 1/4 ton 4X4 MB utility truck sagged wheel set (DW16001) for Takom
- US .50cal cartridges and clip set (DM16001)

### 1:35 accessory set

- M113 Okinawa shield cupola set US/ROK Army in Vietnam (DM35115)

# 1:48 accessory sets



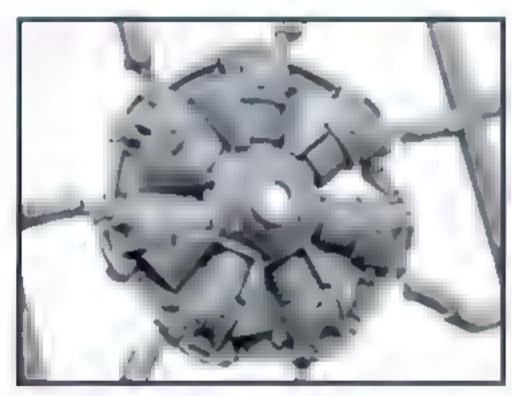


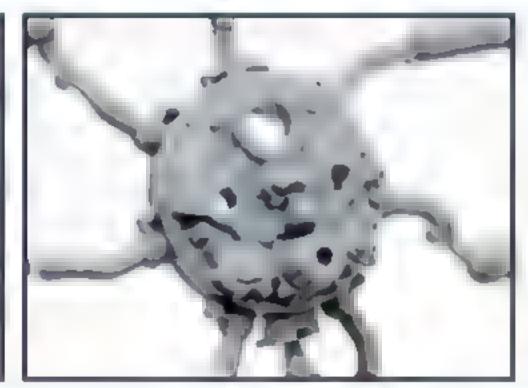
US Cal. .50
Cartridges and clip set

















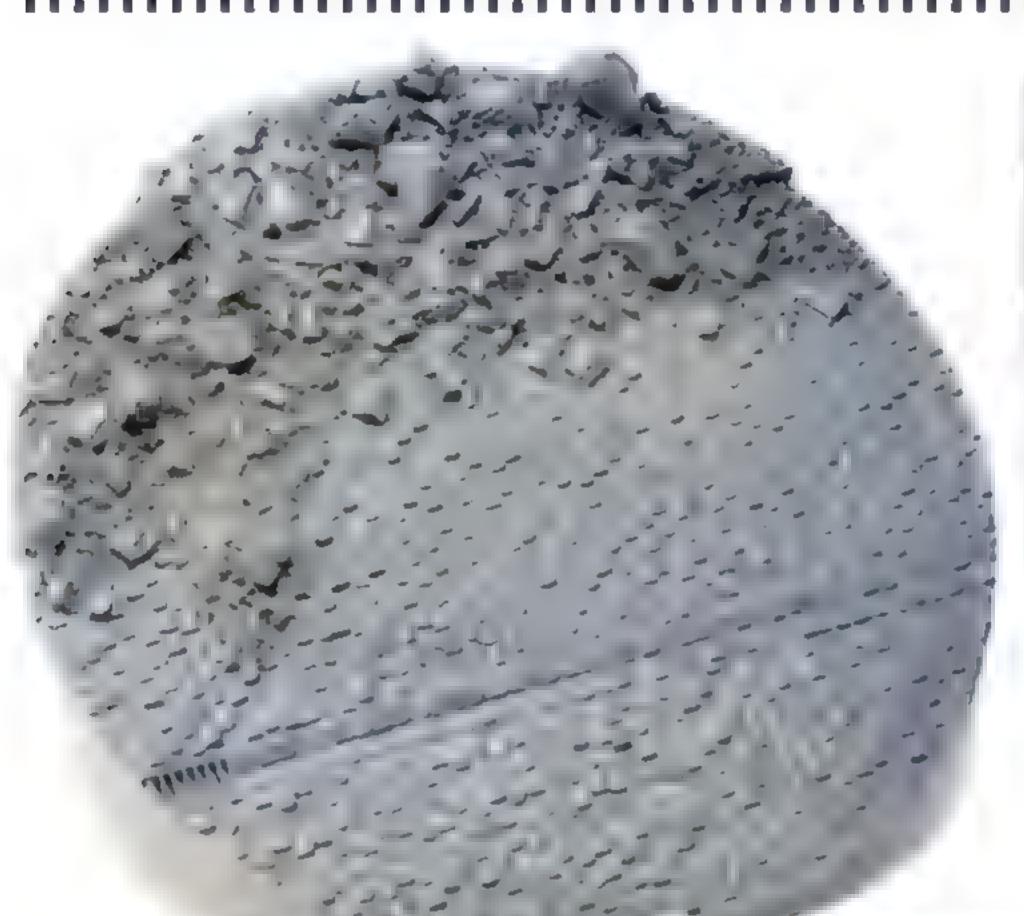
# MINIART

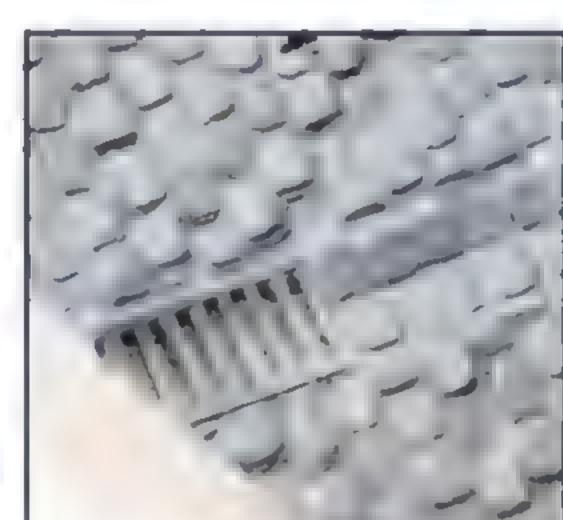
MiniArt's all-new 1:35 M3 Stuart kits are miniature marvels, whether you choose the interior detail edition or not. The former comes with an excellent replica of the W-670 radial engine as standard, so if you want to show off the engine bay in the non-interior version, you'll need this set, which comes with the bonus of two mechanic figures busily working away.

### 1:35 detail set

- US tank repair crew with Continental W-670 engine (35461) for MiniArt

# 









# FALLOUT MODELS

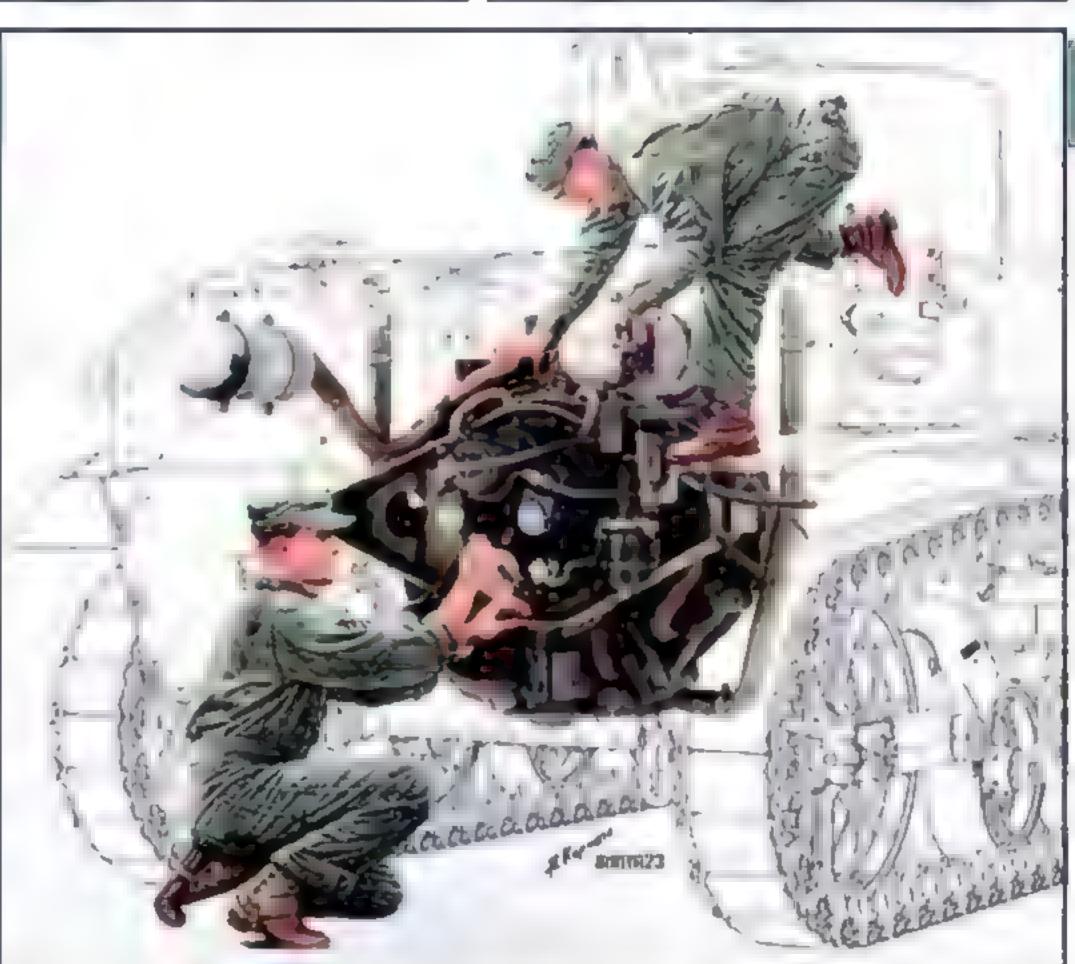
Fallout Models of South Africa offer some superb diorama groundwork sets, and the 'Round Street Corner' and 'Soviet Airfield Apron 1960s' have arrived at MIM. Excellent cast-in detail and they lay flat, so just need painting/weathering and fixing to a baseboard. Magic!

### 1:35 diorama base set

- Round street corner base w/rubble (FM-A025)

### 1:48 diorama base set

Soviet airfield apron 1960s (FM-A033)





# HAULER

This 1:72 WWII-era German diesel shunter is a delightful little in resin and photo-etched brass. It comes with a section of track and a detailed engine, ideal for a quick diorama!

### 1:72 full kit

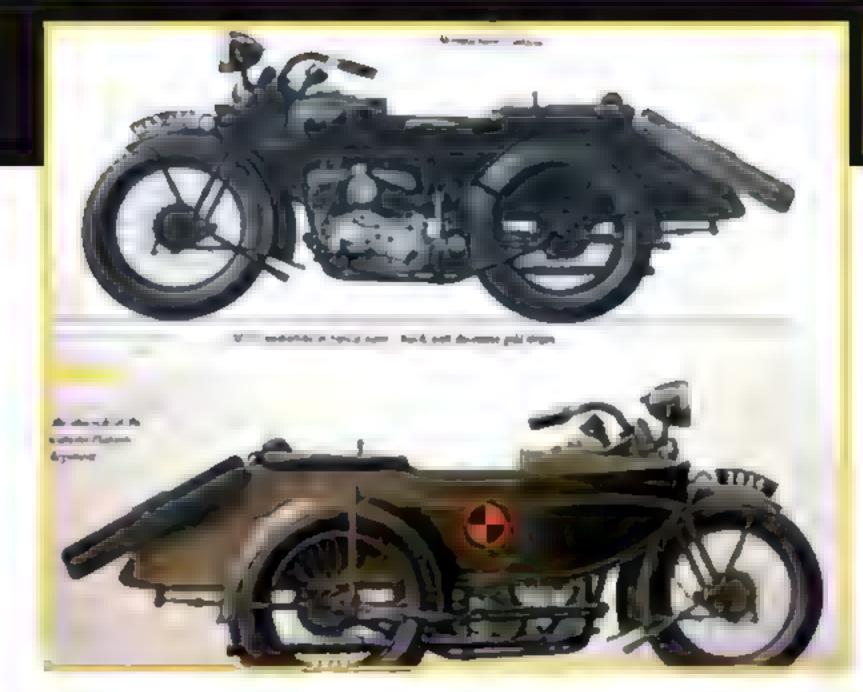
Deutz OMZ 122f (HLP72036)

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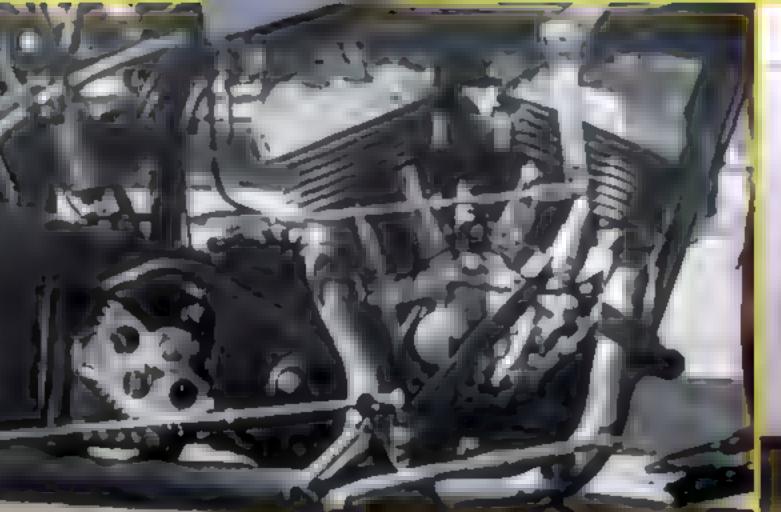
# POLISH HEAVY MILITARY MOTORCYCLE P.Z.INZ, M111 "SOKOL 1000"

# ADAM JONCA, CASEMATE PUBLISHING casemate-uk@casematepublishing.co.uk Polish Heavy Military Motorcycle

This slim twenty-eight-page booklet from MMP Books is No.9 in their Single Vehicle series and is devoted to the Sokol (Falcon) motorcycle which saw a large amount of use leading up to the invasion of Poland in 1939. Categorised as 'heavy', this machine was a real beast, designed to be rugged and powerful, but crudely built and simple to maintain. Widely employed for reconnaissance and often armed with a machine gun, the Sokol was frequently to be seen wherever the army was operating. The book provides a basic history of the



type, numerous photos, and scale drawings. For clarity, the 1:35 drawings are also given in double size. At the back of the book, colour plates show example appearances in the original black paint and in army green. The M111 Sokol 1000 is available in couple of resin kits, and hopefully it will be released in plastic at some stage - the 'Falcon' deserves to be recognised more widely! CLS



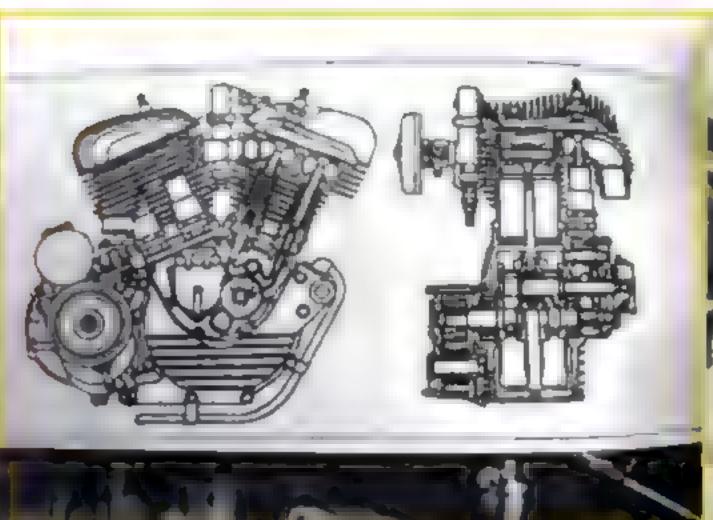
PANZER TRACTS No.9-2

Jagdpanzer IV

Hilary Louis Doyle

& Thomas L. Jentz

P.Z.Inż. M 111 "Sokół 1000"





# PANZER TRACTS NO.9-2 JAGDPANZER IV. PANZER IV/70(V), PANZER IV/70(A) Jagdpanzer IV, Panzer IV/70 (V) & Panzer IV/70 (A)

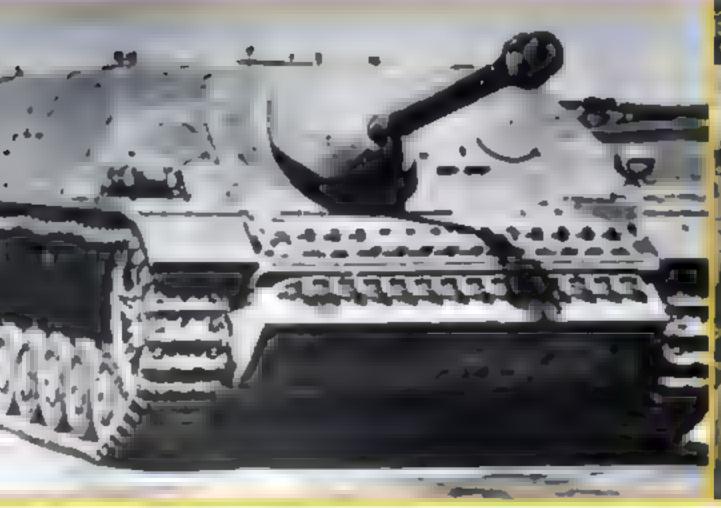
# HILARY LOUIS DOYLE, THOMAS LJENTZ www.panzerwrecks.com

Tamiya offers 1:35 kits of two of the vehicles covered in this latest volume in the invaluable (and reinvigorated) Panzer Tracts series and prospective builders of those models should seriously consider buying themselves a Featuring 15 pages of accurate malai-view CAD drawings of the Jagopanese IV. A copy to accompany them on IV/70 (V) & Panzer IV/70 (A) based on detailed measurement of seven servicing their journey. Both the reallife versions of Tamiya's 'German Panzer IV/70(A)' (kit No.35381) and the 'German Jagdpanzer IV/70(V)



'Military Miniature Series' are examined in detail here, along with the other variants in this family of Word War Two German tank-hunters. Panzer Tracts comes from highly respected authors Hilary Louis Doyle and Thomas Jentz and the reference material found within – wartime photographs, scale drawings, specification charts, operational histories, detail sketches of the vehicles' equipment and, naturally, an authoritative accompanying text - makes this book a hard-to-rival source of information, made all the more compelling by the very reasonable price of just £20, or thereabouts. Very highly recommended. MIM

Lang' (kit No.35340) from the esteemed









The state of the s

# ROMANIAN ARMORED FORCES IN WORLD WAR II

EDUARDO GIL MARTINEZ, CASEMATE PUBLISHING casemate-uk@casematepublishing.co.uk

Of the combatant nations swept up in WW2, the Romanians were generally marginalised, and their contribution to the Axis cause is barely recognised. In fact, with limited resources, the Romanian army fought well with the inadequate weapons at their disposal. The armoured units struggled against the Soviet forces that outnumbered them, and had much more advanced vehicles. The Romanian forces fought in Odessa, Crimea and Stalingrad being virtually decimated by the end of these battles.



swept through, and after the war the soldiers were largely interned. This book provides some balance to the lack of information about the Romanian armoured forces, with photos, maps and artwork to illustrate the units and where they fought. By virtue of its rarity, this Kagero publication is a valuable resource, because modellers will appreciate being able to make, for example, their French R35 or German Stug in unusual Romanian markings, which are quite striking. An excellent book on a neglected topic. CLS



In World War II







# CHALLENGER 1 - BRITAIN'S ORPHAN TANK

RICHARD KENT, CASEMATE PUBLISHING casemate-uk@casematepublishing.co.uk

The Challenger has been the main battle tank in service with the British Army for many years, and the current Challenger 2 is due to be upgraded to Challenger 3 in the future. The origin of Challenger, as a radical development of the Chieftain, owes much to an Iranian order for the Shir 2, which never materialised but evolved into Challenger. The book is profusely illustrated, and shows the Challenger in detail, and in service, with detail shots for modellers and action shots to show the tank in its element. In the Gulf, a Challenger made the

longest tank-on-tank kill at 2.9 miles! At the back of the



book there are 12 colour profiles to show camouflage patterns and markings, plus a series of multi-view drawings in 1:35. Besides the attention given to the tank itself, the book is full of anecdotes about the crews and wider units, giving a unique sense of life in the troops which manned the Challenger. This aspect adds to the historical treatment of the vehicle, and sets a context for the Challenger which has been the mainstay British MBT for four decades. The Challenger gets the full treatment from Richard Kent, and the reader will find the book engrossing, whether as a modeller or a military historian. CLS









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# 10259 F-15 FIGHTING FALCON

Squadron Signal Publications continues it's new book releases from the new Georgia Squadron location with this revised and expanded 80 page full colour F-16 Fighting Falcon in Action. This book is written by author David Doyle. Illustrations are done by Mark Tutton and the cover (front and back) artwork is done by Piotr Forkasiewicz. This books is 80 pages full colour.

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AFV Edition -Publisher; Graphic Design; Advertising Manager; Administration;

Marcus Nicholls Alan Harman Alex Hall Alan Harman Russell Wray Doolittle Media Web Team

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Editorial enquiries;

Aircraft Edition email; brett@doolittlemedia.com AFV Edition email; editor@tamiyamodelmagazine.com

Advertising enquiries;

Tel; +44 (0)7708 028024 Email; alan@doolittlemedia.com

Subscription enquiries;

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HAVE TANK, WILL TRAVEL

Dora Wings' 1:48 scale P-47C Thunderbolt by Brett Green.



JUNGLE WRECK Taking a close look at a wrecked and recovered early



# Military Illustrated Modeller Issue 160 AFV Edition on sale 19th December 2024





LET US PRAY Modelling references for the M7 Priest



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TONNAGE TARGET

12.000"

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he Red Ball Express was a famed truck convoy system that supplied Allied forces moving quickly through Europe after breaking out from the D-Day beaches in Normandy in 1944. To expedite cargo shipment to the front, trucks emblazoned with red balls followed a similarly marked route that was closed to civilian traffic. The trucks also had priority on regular roads. Conceived in an urgent thirty-six-hour meeting, the convoy system began operating on August 25, 1944. Staffed primarily with African-American soldiers, the Express at its peak operated 5,958 vehicles that carried about 12,500 tons of supplies a day. This classic shot of Corporal Charles H. Johnson of the 783rd Military Police Battalion, waving on a "Red Ball Express" convoy is great inspiration for an eye-catching vignette! •

9.000# 8.000# 7.000# 6.000# 1.000# KEEP EM ROLLING/



# from the 'HOW TO BUILD...' series





# Evolution at your Fingertips

# Newly developed based on extensive research of the actual tank!

Our 1/35 Leopard 2 A6 kit has enjoyed a great reputation since its release in 2004. The Leopard 2 A7V is an improved version of A7 (which itself is an improved version of A6) and units began receiving it in 2021. The A7V features additional hull front armor to increase its survivability, and improved suspension with new torsion bars and tracks, plus turret-side baskets. Based upon intensive research of the actual tank in Germany, Tamiya is proud to welcome this tank as a 1/35 scale kit with totally new parts. The A7V features such as turret rear and hull side shape are realistically recreated. Also, snap-together assembly tracks and photo-etched parts further enhance the finished kit. Compare our two kits to get a feel for the evolution of tank technology over the last twenty years!







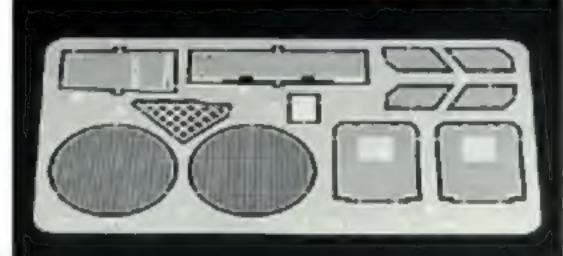


Photo-etched parts for engine grille mesh and turret-side basket sections.

TAMIYA

1/35 Scale German Leopard 2 A7V Metal Gun Barrel (Item 12694) The A7V gun barrel is recreated with a precise aluminum part for a fantastic finish.

\*Images show assembled and painted kit.

\*Product may vary from images shown.

TAMIYA, INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU, SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN

Check Tamiya's homepage for the latest releases! [www.tamiya.com]